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# IOWA PAPER RAPS CONFAB WITH EDITORS

## Scores Secretary Wallace For His Liberality In Feting Newsmen

The Council Bluffs Nonparell daily paper published in Council Bluffs, Iowa, is a bit disturbed over the attention that the present Democratic administration is paying to editors of Race Journals. The Chicago Tribune re-printed the Iowa paper's comment under the title "Editors of the Day."

The meeting to which the editorial refers was the conference of editors held in Washington, D. C., early in December under the joint auspices of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the Farm Security Administration headed by Secretary Wallace. The purpose was to acquaint the newspapermen with the activities and proposed program of the two bureaus insofar as they affect Race farmers.

The Iowa paper's comment follows:

### SECRETARY WALLACE ENTERTAINS

(Council Bluffs Nonparell) Secretary Wallace recently entertained a group of Negro editors from all over the country at government expense. Not only were their hotel bills paid while in Washington but they were given free railroad transportation.

"We have had a difficult time getting information into these Negro newspapers about the secretary's program," a department attaché naively explained.

He hastened to add that some Republican papers were represented as if that made everything hunky-dory. One, the Chicago Defender actually supported Landon during the last campaign. Such a forgiving spirit on the part of Mr. Wallace is almost unbelievable, but there you have it.

It seems that a good many Negroes read only Negro papers and "if the secretary's program" is to be gotten over to them heroic efforts are necessary. Hence the free

trips to Washington.

Doubtless an editor with the memory of two glorious days in the nation's capital and a round trip railroad ticket to boot may confidently be expected to look with a kindly eye on the department's publicity handouts in the future. The visitors also had their pictures taken with "Marse Henry."

The ostensible reason for paying the Negro editors' expenses was that they were too poor to defray the expenses of the trip themselves.

We are not advised whether other "poor" editors are to be invited to Washington at government expense or not. A good many of the secretary's former editorial brethren in Iowa would enjoy a two day visit to the national capital with all expenses paid.

We doubt if the Republican editors would enjoy having their pictures taken with "Marse Henry," but perhaps in the interest of harmony that feature of the excursion could be omitted.

Congress has never appropriated any money for transporting editors white or Negro, to Washington, but the press section of the department believed they had sufficient general authority.

Apparently New Deal officials have sufficient "authority" to spend money for anything they choose but no authority to effect any savings. Ten per cent of all the soil conservation funds, or \$44,000,000 went for administrative expenses, it was revealed during the senate debate the other day.

We are not informed whether the Negro editors' trip to Washington came out of the soil conservation fund or not.

## AAA Defends \$1150 to Editors

### WASHINGTON

Payment of \$1150 toward the expenses of a gathering of newspaper editors here early in December arranged for the purpose of obtaining their cooperation in acquainting farmers with the Government's soil conservation and soil erosion program, was defended by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Friday.

Senator R. J. Bulkley (Dem., Ohio) placed in the Congressional Record, last week, a letter of H. R. Tolley, administrator, explaining the editors' conference.

The Senator said that one of his constituents asked him if it were true the Agriculture Department had paid the expenses of the con-

ference to discuss the farm bill, and if so, was it justified. Mr. Bulkley sent the inquiry to the AAA.

### In Line With Policy

Mr. Tolley's reply emphasized that from the beginning of the AAA program, representative groups of farmers and others have been consulted for advice, both as to development and administration.

He explained that the gathering in question was in line with that policy and added that it seemed fair that the Government should bear the editors' expenses, "since it intended to make use of their suggestions dealing with practical problems of administration."

## SENATOR JOHNSON MAKES FIRST PUBLIC CRITICISM OF WALLACE FOR NEGRO EDITORS' MEETING

Cultural Adjustment Administration, Farm Security Administration and the Extension Service.

### Resented By Senators

The editors asked questions freely and some of them were critical of phases of the program. The Farm bill recently signed by the President, was before Congress then, but the Department did not attempt to gain support for it from the editors.

The editors included Republicans, as well as Democrats, and they were selected on the basis of the circulation of their papers among Negro farmers.

Soon after the conference word spread that some of the senators resented the fact that the Negro editors had been called in and consulted by the department of agriculture, and that Secretary Wallace would be taken to task for his recognition that the Negro farmer deserved fairer treatment. The attack by the California Republican senator, however, is the first public expression in Congress on the subject.

WASHINGTON.— (ANP) — During the debate on the farm bill in the Senate, Senator Hiram Johnson, Republican from California, made an attack on Secretary Wallace because of the conference of Negro editors which was held in Washington December 1 and 2 as part of the educational program of the Department of Agriculture. In commenting on this point, the Senator said:

"No one man should have it in his power to bring to Washington every colored editorial writer in the Union and pay his expenses out of the taxpayers' money, as the Secretary of Agriculture has done."

### Called Misuse of Power

"Little it was perhaps, but it showed the thought and the disposition of those who were then in charge of the Agriculture department. Every colored newspaper editor who brought here—to do what? to be taught the farm bill so that he might carry the good news to his people. That was a misuse of power, an abuse of power, that ought to not to be condoned."

Approximately thirty Negro newspapers, out of more than 200, were represented. The conference was called in order that the editors might obtain first-hand information on the programs available to Negro farmers through the Agri-



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A.A.A. - Soil Conservation.

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# Farmers To Vote On AAA In Referendums

Cotton, Tobacco  
Referendums On

Saturday, Mar. 12

(Special to Journal and Guide)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Of the many criticisms hurled at the newest piece of New Deal legislation, the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, the three most often heard are: 1. It will regiment the farmer. 2. It cannot be understood. 3. It will not work.

Impartial observers answer the first question by pointing out that the bill, signed recently by President Roosevelt after it had been thoroughly gone over and passed in Congress, provides that the most important phase of the new and revised AAA, the quotas for crops to be controlled, shall be decided by referendum in every community. In the referendum, two thirds of the farmers who plant the crop in question must agree to the quota. If the farmers wish to they may reject it.

## BILL INVOLVED

Impartial observers and even technicians in the Department of Agriculture agree that the triple A as now written is greatly involved, is very difficult for even the legislators to understand, is highly technical, and is likely to be confusing.

However, Secretary Wallace of the Agricultural Department has gone to the radio in an effort to explain the fundamental provisions of the measure. Others in the department are releasing volumes of explanatory matter to the press and a country-wide educational program has been undertaken by the Department of Agriculture in the interest of better understanding of the bill, its purposes, its methods, and its guarantees for better times for farmers.

Very few impartial observers have ventured to try to answer the third major criticism that the bill will not work. Most of them have reserved judgment, preferring to let time provide the answer. How-

ever, it is generally agreed that the AAA will be hard to administer and that the government will run into many complicated problems and into much expense before the program can be put over.

## AFFECTS FIVE CROPS

The AAA affects directly five major crops: wheat, corn, cotton, tobacco and rice. It affects indirectly, vast livestock resources, dependent on a normal supply of grain for feeding. It also affects indirectly the pocketbooks of the nation's food consumers who purchase meats and bread.

The bill is designed to provide production control for these crops among other things. This it will try to do by means of market quotas. Briefly stated, if a quota is in effect for cotton, each farmer thoroughly gone over and passed in Congress, provides that the most important phase of the new and revised AAA, the quotas for crops to be controlled, shall be decided by referendum in every community. In the referendum, two thirds of the farmers who plant the crop in question must agree to the quota. If the farmers wish to they may reject it.

The bill provides also for the storage of surplus wheat and corn against drought and other emergencies that result in scarcity of wheat for bread and of corn for livestock and a corresponding rise in food costs for the American family.

## SOIL CONSERVATION

The bill includes a soil conservation program aimed at the care and preservation of the soil. Crops that enrich the soil will be substituted for those that rob the soil of its fertility. The government will make payments to the farmers who cooperate with the soil conservation program.

One of the provisions of the bill specifies that conservation payments of less than \$200 will be substantially increased. Most colored farmers will be eligible for conservation checks of less than \$200.

The act stipulates that payments to be divided between landlord and tenant will be divided as the crop is divided. For example, a share-

Wheat, Corn, Rice,  
Tobacco, Cotton,  
Affected By Bill

cropped who got half the cotton would get half of the AAA payment for diverting the cotton.

## TO HELP SMALL FARMERS

Generally speaking the bill is designed to help small farmers. A limitation of \$10,000 has been placed on big payments and there are provisions for increasing the acreage allotments for small farms.

One technician points out a provision in the act which may be used to the disadvantage of sharecroppers by unfair landlords. This is the section that stipulates that AAA payments may be pledged to the landlord or other persons who advance money for raising the crop. The bill provides for national acreage allotments for the major crops to insure ample production for consumption and reserves.

The acreage allotment for the 1938 cotton crop has been set 23,300,000 acres and the referendum will be held on March 12. This represents an acreage reduction of nearly 15,000,000 acres from previous average years.

The drastic reduction was made because the present supply of cotton is one of the largest in history and prices will be very low as long as supplies remain at excessive levels. It is estimated that more white than colored cotton farmers will be displaced. However, there will be no land for quite a few colored farmers.

## TO HOLD MEETINGS

A referendum on tobacco will be held on March 12.

Other features of the bill include crop insurance and crop loan provisions to encourage systematic storage of surpluses.

Plans are underway to hold meetings with Negro agricultural leaders in each state. It is important that all farmers be prepared to vote on the quotas March 12.

## Here's How Farmers Collect Soil Payments Under '38 Act

FARMERS SEEK AAA LIMIT

AUBURN, ALA., Sept. 5.—(P)—The manner in which Alabama farmers may qualify for soil-building benefit payments under the 1938 farm program was described today by A. W. Jones, AAA administrative officer for Alabama.

The rate of payment for carrying out soil-building practices is \$1.50 per practice "unit" up to a maximum amount of aid which a farmer may receive for conducting such practices, Jones explained.

Some of the practices, with their unit values, which Jones said may be effectively used in Alabama to qualify for payments include:

Establishment of permanent pasture, one acre counts as two units, or \$3.00.

Manure crops, or cover crops, one acre equals one unit, or \$1.50; when such crops are turned under on commercial vegetable farms, each acre counts as two units, or \$3.00.

Interplanting Summer legumes, not harvested, two acres equal one unit, or \$1.50.

Planting trees, one acre equals five units, or \$7.50.

Cultivating, protecting, and maintaining trees planted between Jan. 1, 1934, and Jan. 1, 1938, one acre equals two units, or \$3.00.

Reseeding pasture, use of 10 pounds of seed equals one unit, or \$1.50.

Application of 16 per cent superphosphate, or equivalent, to permanent pastures and specified legumes and grasses; 300 pounds equal one unit, or \$1.50.

Application of ground limestone, 1,500 pounds equal one unit, or \$1.50.

Application of basic slag or rock phosphate to permanent pastures and specified legumes and grasses, 500 pounds equal one unit, or \$1.50.

Terracing, 200 linear feet equal one unit, or \$1.50.

**COTTON PLOW-UNDER  
REPORTED EXTENSIVE**

**IN SOUTHERN STATES**

Mississippi Leads List With

About 100,000 Acres Of

Crop Destroyed

9-5-38

IS VOTE ISSUE IN GEORGIA

Senatorial Candidates

Attack Each Other

Turning Under Of Plants Is  
Done By Growers To Get  
Within Quota And Qualify  
For Full Benefit Checks

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA, Sept. 4.—Reports from several Southern States today indicated considerable cotton had been plowed under as farmers tried to bring their acreage within Federal allotment limits so as to receive full benefit payments.

Due to tardiness of Congress in approving the 1938 Farm Act, the Department of Agriculture was unable to get quota figures to many farmers before they had planted their crop. In other instances, lack of accurate measuring equipment made it difficult for growers to plant exact allotments.

## Made Issue In Georgia

A spirited political campaign in Georgia found the Farm Act and the plowing-under injected into vote appeals. Senate Candidate Eugene Talmadge, longtime foe of all Federal control measures, rapped Senator George for voting for the bill and New Dealer Lawrence Camp for subscribing to the principle of crop control. Mr. Camp blamed George for not speeding the measure through the Senate. Georgia holds its primary Sept. 14. Homer S. Durden, Georgia AAA administrator, says "there is nothing in the Federal farm program that requires that cotton be plowed up. . . . No farmers are being advised to plow up."

He explained the "AAA agreed to count as full co-operators all farmers who get within their acreage allotments before the cotton is matured" because allotment figures were not issued in advance of planting in all cases.

## Mississippi Takes Lead

"Farmers generally are familiar with the provisions of the program," he said "and if they figure they can make more money by plowing up the acreage in excess of their allotment than they can by being overplanted, the AAA is glad to co-operate with them." He added he thought the total acreage being turned under in Georgia is relatively small.

On the basis of figures available today, the largest plow-up occurred in Mississippi, where T. M. Patterson, state AAA administrator, estimated 6000 farmers had turned under 100,000 acres since June. The

bulk of this plow-up, he said, "occurred sufficiently early to permit planting of some other Summer crop."

#### Oklahoma Plants Late

Texas reported plowing up in several counties but no definite figures were available. Arkansas was reported 67,869 acres over quota: June 1 but the state AAA office said any estimate on the amount of this plowed under would be a "wild guess."

Louisiana's Agricultural Extension Service said if there was any plowing up in that state it was "negligible," adding that there had been 98 per cent co-operation with the control program.

Oklahoma farmers, since they planted later than other sections of the belt, were able to get their quotas in advance of seeding and hence had no need to plow up, officials said. The AAA said it had heard no reports of plow-ups in Tennessee while data were not available on Alabama and the Carolinas.

#### 250 Acres Plowed Up In Mississippi County

Special to The Commercial Appeal  
BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Sept. 4.—Ninety-two farmers in Mississippi County this week completed plowing up from one to five acres of cotton each in order to be included in the AAA acreage program. With this finished, all farmers in the county except 20 are in the Federal program and will receive payments of cash for compliance with the program.

It is estimated that about 250 acres were plowed up voluntarily after the growers had been notified that they had made errors in judging acreage.

The 20 farmers who not included in the program will be fined \$10 or each bale above the acreage allotted by the Government and also will lose all payments of 1938 and for 1939.

The approximately 250 acres plowed up is about average for the state. Mississippi County has 187,000 acres planted in cotton this year and the two districts were about evenly divided. The Osceola District, which has 101,000 acres in cotton, has 12 growers not co-operating and there were 62 farmers who voluntarily plowed up from one to five acres, while in the Northern District there were 30 who plowed up from one to three acres and 12 who are not co-operating.

## AAA Approves \$10,000,000 In Cotton Checks

### Alabama Farmers Make 11,137 Applications For Benefits

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22. — (AP) — The Agricultural Adjustment Administration announced today more than 10,400,000 in cotton adjustment payments on the 1937 crop had been approved for payment to 79,500 farmers. Approximately 41,000 checks, averaging \$83 each and totaling \$3,400,000 already have been distributed, it was said.

AAA officials said more than 267,000 applications for the subsidies had been received and estimated the total would reach 1,400,000.

A \$130,000,000 appropriation is available for the payments and the bulk of the checks is expected to be distributed in October and November.

Farmers who cooperated in the 1938 cotton adjustment program are eligible for the payments, which are made at a rate of up to 3 cents a pound on a portion of their production last year. The number of applications received by States, the number already approved for payment and the amount of the payments approved include:

Alabama 11,137 applications, no report on approvals; Georgia 47,899 received, 2,158 approved for \$216,876; South Carolina, 5,810 received, 548 approved for \$44,493; Tennessee 5,809 received, 2,549 approved for \$348,000.

### Farmers Prepare for Cotton Referendum

TUSKEGEE, Dec. 1. (ANP) — Reports received here indicate that Negro farmers of the state are displaying much interest in the referendum on cotton marketing quotas for 1939 which will be held on Dec. 10.

During this week, meetings of Negro farmers have been held at Selma and at the A. M. college at Normal and more than a thousand Negro farmers were in attendance. E. A. Miller, assistant to director, Southern Division, AAA, and J. R. Clark, agricultural economist, AAA, both from Washington, addressed the farmers and explained how the cotton surpluses tend to decrease the farmers' income.

J. C. Ford, State Extension Work Coordinator, urged the farmers to plant more "greasy" crops and thereby utilize the land

taken out of cotton and help the family have better balanced food. T. M. Campbell, field supervisor of Negro Extension Work in seven states, and A. L. Holsey, field officer, AAA, both of Tuskegee institute, spoke on aspects of the conservation program as it relates to Negro farmers. Nicholas Kolloch, Negro State Extension leader, presided.



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## Many Farmers Will Sell Hogs That Cost 3 Cents To Grow

AUBURN, ALA., Sept. 5.—(P)—Many Alabama farmers will market hogs this fall that have been grown on forage crops alone at a cost of approximately three cents per pound.

A plan developed by the Alabama Experiment Station which has proven successful during the past two years allows hogs to graze on green oats, soybeans, peanuts and permanent pastures from birth until sale or slaughter.

To do this farmers grow forage crops throughout the year so that hogs can be transferred from one crop to another without any loss in weight. In other words, the hogs and pigs have a grazing crop each month.

### Feeding Was Problem

For many years hog producers have suffered financial losses because expense of feeding has been too great and their profits or losses depend upon the kind and amount of feed consumed. Corn production on most southern farms is not sufficient to care for many hogs.

It is in this particular that most farm hog raisers have failed—they have not furnished their growing pigs sufficient feed for steady growth and fattening.

Alabama experiment station has found that with more attention to permanent pastures and by breeding sows to farrow two litters of pigs each year, one in the Spring and the other in the Fall, this economical production of market hogs can be obtained. Here is how the Alabama plan works:

Crops are grown so that the sows are on green oats from November to April, on pasture from April to July and soybeans from July to November. The fall litter of pigs is on oats from November to December, on hogged-off peanut fields from January to April, on pasture from April to July, on soybeans from July to August 15, on Spanish peanuts from August 15 to September 15 and on runner peanuts from September 15 until sold in October.

### Soy Beans to Peanuts

The May litter of pigs goes on pastures from May to June, on soybeans in July and August, on runner peanuts from September to February when the pigs are sold.

In addition to the forage crops all hogs have a mineral mixture before them at all times. This mineral mixture is made up of 100 pounds of charcoal or wood ashes, 100 pounds of salt and 100 pounds of hydrated lime.

J. P. Wilson, superintendent of Alabama's Wiregrass substation in the southern part of the State where these tests have been conducted, said he has found that hogs can not only be produced for \$3.00 per hundred but also without losses from disease or para-

sites. From August 1, 1930 to last Summer there were few hogs lost at the station, he added.

### Hogs Healthy, Too

More than 300 hogs have been produced without any cash outlay for medicine of any kind. The hogs have been almost free of any worm damage. He attributes this to (1) no old buildings, (2) no permanent hog houses or pens, (3) sunshine on every piece of ground, and (4) bringing in no infected hogs from the outside.

"Farmers will find it desirable to grow hogs on the thin sandy land near streams and ponds," Wilson declared. "Rolling, thin sandy lands are the poor cotton lands and will make poor yields of peanuts if they are harvested from year to year. By clearing the bottom land along branches and ponds for pasture purposes and planting hog grazing crops on the land, hog production may be added to the farm program without materially curtailing cotton production, he pointed out. By this plan the farm income may be definitely increased by having both cotton and hogs for sale."

Atlanta, Ala., Tribune

October 15, 1938

### TWO DARKIES

The average Southern negro doesn't worry about crops. He knows that if anybody makes anything out of his land, he'll get his portion of it. A few years ago he stepped out on his own but most of them continue unperturbed over what the white farmer spends sleepless nights.

This thought is brought to mind by the following editorial in Thursday's Tuscaloosa News:

The other day, we came across an old negro whom we had known for years—a negro who, in his community, has always had a reputation as a fairly good farmer. We asked him what sort of crop he had made this year, and he replied.

"Nothing, boss. Jess about nothing."

Knowing that "nothing" can be an extremely elastic term when applied to farming, we pressed for a definite answer, and then he went on to explain that the spring backwater had

just about ruined him, and that he couldn't get his crop planted in time. "How much cotton did you make, old man?"

"Sixty pounds, boss."

"My goodness! Only sixty pounds of lint cotton?"

"Naw suh, boss. Sixty pounds of seed cotton."

We figured that up. Sixty pounds of seed cotton meant 20 pounds of lint. At eight cents a pound, he would gross \$1.60.

We then asked him about his corn, and he finally confessed that he had made only seven bushels. Seven bushels, at 50 cents a bushel, makes \$3.50. His cotton and corn together mean a year comes to \$5.10. He had no mule for him—but even so you cannot escape the fact that his labor for an entire year produced only \$5.10 in wealth. He had no garden, incidentally. He has been housed and fed for a whole season for only \$5.10—and he's stout and in good health, too.

We then asked him how he expected to get along, what with making no more crop than that. (His landlord, of course, doesn't get any rent; he doesn't expect any.) "Well, boss," he replied. "I plans to eat as long as you do. As long as you white folks has got something to eat, I'll get my share."

And we didn't have any answer for that.

A few days later, we happened to be talking to another old darkey—a negro born in slavery—who has been a splendid farmer all his life. He lives on a fertile plantation near Tuscaloosa, and he is something of the "boss man" down there. The only

trouble with this plantation—which has one of the finest corn bottoms in the state—is that it is subject to overflows, and once in about every five years, the river gets the crop. The corn must be gathered at the earliest possible moment.

We asked this old man about his crop, and he said, yes, that they had a fine corn crop; that the corn was ready to be gathered and that they would get around to it in a few days.

We pointed out to him that we had just had the driest September in recent years, that the first few days of October had been ideal, but that the law of averages probably wouldn't allow this weather to keep up. We pointed out that a good, gully-washing rain up around Birmingham might make that river jump out of its banks in 36 hours, and that we were long overdue for such a rain, so why didn't he put on a little speed with his corn-gathering?

"The Lord will take care of us," he replied. "There's been rains before and floods before, and plenty of times all the crops have been ruined—but you ain't seen none of us starve to death, nor none of us die on account of that high water, have you? If the Lord wants us to gather that corn, he'll let us gather it, and if he don't, he'll send us a flood. The Lord will take care of us."

And we didn't have any answer for that old darkey, either.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald

November 5, 1938

## Negro Wins Suit On Claim He Was Sold Wrong Seed

THERE are different kinds of cane and at least one variety is unfit for the making of molasses, S. J. Milligan, Negro farm-



living in the Collegeville section of North Birmingham, has found. Milligan bought what he thought was a half-bushel of Texas ribbon cane seed from a Birmingham mercantile firm and planted it. Milligan tended his patch carefully and had visions of getting about 200 gallons of molasses. Then, the crop turned out to be broom cane, which might be satisfactory for the manufacture of implements with which to sweep the floor, but it certainly was no good for the making of molasses, the Negro said.

Friday, Judge W. A. Jenkins gave Milligan judgment of \$85 against the mercantile firm. The award was based on what the seed should have produced in molasses at the rate of 50 cents a gallon.

## Increase In Negro Farmers Income Sought

### Tenant Farmer Relief Is Problem Facing Extension Service

By DONALD L. ROBERTSON  
AUBURN, ALA., Nov. 25.—(Special)—Approximately 100,000 of the 373,000 farmers of the state are Negro farmers. To raise the average per capita farm income in Alabama from the \$91 of last year there must, of necessity, be a bettering of living conditions and an increase in farm income on the negro farms of the state as well as the white farms.

Recently Tuskegee Institute was host to all negro extension workers of Alabama who met there for four days with the specialists and staff of the Alabama Extension Service at Auburn. This was the first meeting of a new setup inaugurated by P. O. Davis, director of extension at Auburn, to bring the negro extension workers into closer coordination with white extension workers.

Assisting in the meeting was J. C. Ford, former county agent in Fayette County, who was appointed several weeks ago by Mr. Davis to coordinate the work of the white and colored farm and home agents and to make it possible for more information of improved farm and home practices and the AAA to reach colored farmers.

Alabama now has the most complete organization of negro agricultural workers in the South, says T. M. Campbell, field agent in charge of negro extension in the Southern States. To make this organization more effective, and to reach more of the negro farmers with helpful information, was the idea back of the negro conference.

One of the most outstanding programs outlined at the meeting was reaching more of the negro tenant

farmers who make up the majority in the state. This program is not an attempt to make negro tenant farmers owners of farms in a short time. In fact, Professor Campbell says, the program is to help the farmers meet the situation as it is and to work more with tenants to show them the value of better farming and improved living conditions. More and more landlords have seen the value of this and today are asking negro workers to come in and assist the farmers on the plantations.

Another outstanding development of the meeting is that in AAA work, in home improvement, and in all other work in the county the negro agents will work in close cooperation with the county and home agent in developing a program of agriculture for the county. There are 28 men agents, 28 women agents, seven supervisors and two part time workers in the state negro organization. Each of these workers is trying to improve the condition of the negro farmers of Alabama and are working with educational and agricultural agencies of both white and colored people to accomplish this result.

Encouraged use of native material, making negro tenants more interested in improving their homes and farming, putting all help of the Alabama Extension Service and the negro extension service at the disposal of negroes, and maintaining the good will of the white landlords,—all of this together—is no small program of work developed at the conference. In addition to this, there is the program of better rural housing on which Tuskegee Institute is working with the negro extension workers.

Tuskegee Institute, headed by Dr. T. M. Patterson, Selma University and Alabama Normal, directed by Dr. W. L. Dinkins, and Dr. J. F. Drake, respectively, are all interested in seeing that negro farmers receive as much help as possible in the way of AAA information and other home and farm improvement help.

Negro farmers should enjoy better conditions and will in the future, if one is to judge the work being done in the state now. Mr. Davis foresees a period of better negro living conditions, better and more prosperous farmers, and a better income average for the entire state as a result of the work being done with negro farm families.

### FARM PLAN OUTLINED

#### Food And Feed Get First Place For Negro Crops

AUBURN, Ala. — Food and feed are given first consideration in a farm crop plan for Negro farmers. As recommended by J. C. Ford, extension coordinator of Negro work, the proposed plan includes:

1. Plenty of all-year-garden crops on good land and well fertilized.
2. Sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes and syrup in abundance.
3. Corn: Enough acres to produce the corn needed on the farm. Fertilize as recommended by the Alabama Experiment Station. (On some Black Belt farms corn not recommended at all. Plant oats instead and follow Experiment Station recommendations.)
4. Hay: One acre permanent hay

for each horse, mule or cow on farm. Use temporary hays until permanent hays get established.

5. Cotton: Plant the allotted acreage on good land and fertilize with 6-8-4. Use the approved varieties.

Birmingham, Ala. News  
November 27, 1938

## NEGRO FARMER STATE PROBLEM

### Bettering Conditions Is Aim Of New Campaign By Extension Group

DONALD L. ROBERTSON

Approximately 100,000 of the 273,000 farmers of the state are Negroes. To raise the average per capita farm income in Alabama from the \$91 of last year there must, of necessity, be a bettering of living conditions and an increase in farm income on the Negro farms of the state as well as the white farms.

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### Aim To Aid Negroes

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### Broad Program

Encouraging use of native material, making Negro tenants more interested in improving their homes and farming, putting all help of the Alabama Extension Service and the Negro extension service at the disposal of Negroes, and maintaining the good will of the white landlords, is no small program of work developed. In addition, there is the program of better rural housing on which Tuskegee Institute is working with the Negro extension workers.

Tuskegee Institute, headed by Dr. T. M. Patterson, Selma University and Alabama Normal, directed by Dr. W. L. Dinkins, and Dr. J. F. Drake, respectively, are all interested in seeing that Negro farmers receive as much help as possible in the way of AAA information and other home and farm improvement help.

Negro farmers should enjoy better conditions, and will in the future, if one is to judge the work being done in the state. Mr. Davis foresees a period of better Negro living conditions, better and more prosperous farmers, and a better income average for the entire state as a result of the work being done with Negro farm families.



# Agriculture—1938

## Condition of.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily  
March 7, 1938

## BRIDGES ASKS NEGRO VOTES

T. W. Bridges, negro county agent for Morgan and Lawrence counties, today sent out a special appeal that all negro farmers express their opinion of a cotton control program, in the March 12th referendum on Cotton Marketing quotas.

If marketing quotas are in effect those who plant within their acreage allotment will be eligible for the following benefits:

1. They will be eligible to receive agricultural conservation payments.
2. They will be eligible to receive cotton price adjustment payments on 1937 cotton.
3. They will be eligible for a loan on all cotton produced in 1938.
4. They, with others, will be protected in their efforts to adjust supplies.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News,  
March 30, 1938

### On Cotton

THERE are some astonishing things to be learned about cotton and its growers from the tabulation of the official results on the market quota referendum held throughout the belt on March 12—first and foremost of them being that, judged by the number who voted in this election, Alabama isn't far behind Texas, the largest cotton-producing state in the South, in the number of cotton farmers.

While Texas raises almost three times as much cotton as Alabama, it had only 246,091 cotton men who voted in the referendum, while Alabama, the third state on the list, had 222,854. Mississippi, which came in between, had 233,788.

This merely emphasizes, of course, that we are a state of small producers, with a small acreage, while Texas is a state of large producers with a large acreage—and the difference is further magnified by the fact that the per acre yield on the Southwestern farms is far lower than that on the farms of the Southeast.

Turning to the county vote in Alabama, we find that the quota plan met the greatest resistance in such "white" counties as Dekalb (4,870 to 933), Blount (3,826 to 328), Walker (2,389 to 458), Marion (3,710 to 406), Franklin (3,119 to 400) and Baldwin (817 to 75). These are the counties in

which the small white farmer flourishes, and where the tenant farmer and share-cropper are least abundant.

On the other hand, those heavily negro counties—particularly those of the Black Belt—found the plan meeting with hardly any resistance at all.

For instance, Lowndes County, which has proportionately a larger negro population than any other county in the state, or about eight negroes for every white, reported 2,937 in favor of the cotton plan and only 4 opposed to it. Hale had 3,631 for it and only 6 against it, and Greene had 3,055 for

it and only 35 against it. Bullock reported 2,490 to 17, and Wilcox had 4,115 to 18. These are among the counties in the state which have the heaviest percentage of sharecroppers—ranging even above 80 per cent of the total farm population in some of them—and you who study statistics for sociological trends might make a lot out of these figures.

### THE DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING FARM LABOR

Editor The Advertiser:

What constitutes unemployment for unskilled laborers when the cry from urban and rural people is "we cannot find anyone to work"?

We were talking to a city president yesterday who told us she had a boy who started to clean the year. The person went into the house and on returning, found the "hired hand" gone. So similar incidents occur far and near.

One asks a former laborer to work for him, "I can't, Boss, if I does, I loses my relief." Or perhaps it is someone drawing unemployment compensation, a similar answer is given.

We go to the unemployment office and say, "We are in need of three or four plow hands. Can't you send us some?" The answer is: "We cannot make them go to the farm. They say they never lived on a farm." Yet, there is no other place for many to have never lived. They have never done anything but plow.

Again, here is one who lives on the farm, "take him along." He is told to meet you at a designated place and he will be carried to the farm. But you have seen your prospective laborer for the last time.

There seemingly is a concentrated movement among this class of labor to prevent any one from going to the farm.

The agency says to them, "Here you are offered what is equivalent to \$35.00 per month on the road. Better take it."

All are lined up for a road job. Work for a day or two on the road per week and live in congested quarters is more to a certain class of our laborers' liking than a regular job.

So our farms are being unworked. We cannot comply with the farm program, as to soil conservation, raising more forage, diversification, etcetera. In fact, our mules are standing idle, follow lands remain unplanted.

Last Fall we wrote to the manager of the CCC boys who were doing conservation work, trimming

pinus, etc. (we have the prettiest natural stand of long leaf pines in this section. They need trimming badly). The manager called, stating the requirements, saying we would have to agree to do certain things for a period of five years. Yes, we said, we would gladly do all this, but labor is so uncertain we cannot obtain it.

As things are now we shall have no crop for this year. The lands which have been broken will remain unplanted.

Cannot road programs, relief or something be held up until the farmer can get his crop planted and his oats harvested?

Opelika, Ala.

May 19, 1938.

(Miss) B. L. SUMMERS.

## WPA Jobs For Poor Farmers Slated After Laying-By-Time

Assignment of Alabama farmers in the inadequate or low income group to WPA projects under the new farm aid program of the WPA announced yesterday, will be made only after a definite understanding has been reached between all parties interested in the crop. Col. W. G. Henderson, State WPA administrator, declared.

Col. Henderson, a farmer himself, declared that a definite date would be set for the release of each farm worker employed by the WPA, in order that the worker may return to his crop, and this date would be mutually understood and agreeable to the landlord and the worker.

"I want it understood," Col. Henderson said, "that the WPA will not, under any circumstances, disturb the relationship between landowner and tenant."

The purpose of the temporary employment of farm workers during slack periods following laying-by time and after the crops have been gathered, is to improve the lot of the thousands of farmers in the low income brackets, to increase community purchasing power and generally raise the standards of living, he said.

He pointed out that many of the farmers were jobless and virtually destitute during intervals of from one to two months between laying-by and crop gathering time. The cash they will receive from work on WPA projects during these slack periods, he said, will provide clothing, food and other necessities and find its way rapidly into the many channels of trade in the communities.

Announcement of the registration of farmers for WPA employment was

made yesterday by Col. Henderson following a conference with Miss Loula Dunn, commissioner of the State Department of Public Welfare.

Registration and referral for WPA employment will be made by county departments of public welfare in accord with regulations which define as eligible farmers in the inadequate or low income group. Miss Dunn advised the State administrator that the county departments of public welfare would do their utmost to promptly expedite the registration and referral of applicants.

Once an applicant has been referred by the county department of public welfare prompt assignment to a WPA project will be made, Col. Henderson said.

Col. Henderson said that he would not estimate the number of farmers who will apply for WPA work. At present, he said, it is probable that there will not be a statewide influx for the reason that the harvest season begins in the southern part of the State several weeks in advance of the harvest season in the northern section. WPA employment for farmers, he said, will be spread over a period beginning now and continuing through February.

The farm aid program he said, differs from the regular WPA employment program in that employment is provided to supplement farm income.

Farm laborers, share-croppers and renters who have been displaced as a result of increased use of farm machinery or for other causes will be eligible for WPA employment.

Only one member of an eligible farm family can be assigned WPA employment, but in some instances, younger members of the family group, otherwise eligible, may be assigned to National Youth Administration projects. In all instances where the head of the family is able-bodied and otherwise qualified to perform satisfactory work on projects the head of the family will be certified, he said.

Miss Dunn said every effort will be made to expedite the registration and referral of eligible farmers. The referrals, she said, will be based on rules of eligibility and statement of policy furnished by the WPA. Actual assignments of workers to the jobs will be made by WPA as referrals are received from the county departments of public welfare.

"The State Department of Public Welfare is working with the county departments of public welfare in an effort to so organize the various activities in the county offices as to be able to handle this additional group in a way in which no matter will be soundly and promptly expedited," Miss Dunn said. "Any public welfare program should express interest in and give support to all activities which make possible better standards of living. It is therefore a responsibility of public welfare workers to assist in the wise and efficient administration of any program which a Federal agency, such as WPA, is now ready to afford people throughout the State of Alabama."

Miss Dunn pointed out that the services of the county departments of public welfare in the registration and referral of applicant farmers is in keeping with the spirit and letter of the act of the Legislature which created the department.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser  
September 10, 1938

## Negroes And Farm Ownership

We are informed that in 18 Alabama counties the Negroes outnumber the whites, these being Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Choctaw, Clarke, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Monroe, Montgomery, Perry, Russell, Sumter and Wilcox.

On the other hand we are reminded that tenant farm families exceed the farm-owning families in all but 10 of the 67 counties in Alabama. The counties in which the farm owners predominate are Baldwin, Clarke, Cullman, Escambia, Jefferson, Marion, Mobile, Walker, Washington and Winston.

Any number of things could be deducted from these figures, but most worthy of attention is the fact that in only one of the 10 farm-owner counties are there more negroes than white people—Clarke. It is elementary to state, of course, that the Negro is the backbone of the tenant system in Alabama, but here we have all the more reason why we should lend our efforts to the improvement of the Negro's lot. In those ten farm-owner counties are the most prosperous agricultural counties in the State, the counties most free from the domination of cotton. In those 18 Negro counties are those in which our agricultural problems are most acute, and this in spite of the fact that they possess the richest of our soils. It is to the selfish interest of us all—white and black alike—that the Negro, whenever responsible, be encouraged in the ownership and operation of his own farm.—Tuscaloosa News



Agriculture-1938

## Condition of Letters To The Editor

### CONSISTENCY?

To The Commercial Appeal:

As a newspaper, The Commercial Appeal is o.k., but its policy seems not to be so consistent. For the last several years this paper has denounced Northerners and "Reds" for trying to agitate laborers and sharecroppers. If anyone wrote a book relative to the sharecropper and his problems or else showed a picture of a tumbledown cabin in the South, The Commercial Appeal, it seems, would pass the word for every editor to please say that things might be true, but would such writers and photographers stay at home and solve their own social problems?

But what do we have now but T. H. Alexander to go to New York and expose the ignorance and thriftlessness of those poor foreigners. It seems that these New Yorkers are somewhat like sharecroppers; that is, they spend more than they make, and that they are so ignorant that if they made any money they would not know how to save it.

And where did you ever find that cabin in the cotton to make a picture for Sunday's gravure? Surely not in the South unless some "Red" found it for you. Or maybe a Hollywood property man set it up for your photographer.

Yours for consistency.

SHARECROPPER.

Etowah, Ark.

### DEFENDS TENANTS

Produced So Much, Control By  
Law Became Necessary

To The Commercial Appeal:

In April 17th issue Commercial Appeal, our good friend Mr. Jim Moore of Union City "lays many sins at the door of the sharecropper." He accuses him of cheating, lying, and stealing.

But why pick on the sharecropper? Can't these same charges be substantiated against some in all the classes of society, and isn't the poor sharecropper a mere piker compared with some of the higher-ups?

Mr. Moore accuses the sharecropper of being lazy. Even so, he has produced so much that his work had to be curtailed. Now, furthermore, he is working too much and becoming poorer, what is the wisdom in being so smart?

Now if this sharecropper is such an undesirable person, why will the landlord have him around? For the landlord has the say as to who occupies his land. Why doesn't he get

an altogether different class of tenants on his land? With all the thousands unemployed among the refined white collar element, college graduates, school teachers, numerous small business men, and all the CCC boys to select from, certainly with the most wonderful inducements of a sharecropper contract these men would only be too glad to sign up. Then we would have better cooks on the farm. They could do away with fried side meat and substitute therefor fried chicken and lamb chops, and champagne for bayou water. Why not, Mr. Moore, why not?

W. M. TUCKER.

Blytheville, Ark.

## FARM TENANCY BOARD CONFERS IN ARKANSAS

Legislation To Be Mapped For  
January Session

### LAND POLICY OUTLINED

Homesteading Proposed By  
One Committee — Individual  
Units Will Continue Study Of  
Problem During Summer

By The Associated Press

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., May 23.— Committees of the Arkansas Farm Tenancy Commission were told today to function throughout the day to prepare in the early Fall proposed legislation to be offered to the General Assembly next January.

After hearing reports here today of the Landlord-Tenant Contract Land Policy (Homesteading) and Land Title Committees, Chairman C. E. Palmer of Texarkana said that these groups would continue their duties with individual meetings.

"It is my plan," said Mr. Palmer, "to be prepared early in the Fall to plan legislation on these problems."

30 Attend Conference

About 30 of the nearly 100 members of the commission attended the meeting today, the first gathering of the General Commission since its revision by Governor Bailey.

Dr. C. O. Brannen, Fayetteville, chairman of the Land Policy Committee, told the commission his

committee had found more than 200

tracts of state-owned land, all over 10 acres in size, which offered possibilities for homesteading.

Dr. Brannen said 621 such sites had been inspected, but that 111 were found to be under question-able titles and 333 were rejected as unsuitable. Approximately 170 were found to have necessary possibilities for homesteading, while possibly 50 of the 112 under questionable titles might be made available to the commission, he said.

### Land Policy Favored

The commission accepted his report which urged legislation to provide:

A clear declaration of a new land policy; to classify the land with reference to suitability for various uses; allocate certain lands to homesteads but allow the state to retain all mineral rights; restrict sales to persons who don't already own farm units; safeguards be given creditors on loans on their lands; devise certain systems of payments on homesteads; method for recovery by the state in event homesteader quits farming and provide protection for all state owned lands.

Mr. Palmer said that "it is my belief that it will be necessary that the people homesteading land under our policy will have to agree to work it under Agricultural Department supervision."

State Senator Alfred Featherston of Murfreesboro predicted lengthly litigation to clear up titles to forfeited lands.

### Court Action Looms

"I don't think much legislation is necessary," he told the commission, "we're going to have to start in on each tract of land and settle it separately, possibly taking it to the courts. There is a lot of land which, on the books the state has title, but some of these titles are so defective that the courts themselves can't decide the ownership."

Mr. Palmer ventured that "there are several millions of acres of lands in Arkansas, some of which in commercial hands now, is worthless, but if we can get it for the state it won't be worthless. Some of it can be used for timber or grazing."

"It may take 15 years to put in shape, but 15 years is not long for a state. However, that won't settle tenancy but it will be a start. And we certainly can't do anything with the titles in the shape they're in now."

J. Frank Holes of Prairie Grove, chairman of the Land Title Committee, said that there was a maze of entanglements through which his group is delving and asked the commission for more time in which to complete the survey.

### Way Is Cleared

"Dr. Brannen's report has blazed the way for us," he said, "and I'm sure we will be able to report at the next meeting. The question of clearing up the titles on these state lands is a very serious one and we were not able to come in here today with any specific recommendations."

The commission, rejecting a proposed contract between landlord and tenant, agreed that several such contracts would be necessary and voted to enlarge its contract committee in order that subcommittees might draft individual contracts to cover cotton, fruits, live stock, rice, truck, dairying and forestry.

Objections arose that the contract presented here today could not cover either all phases of farming in all sections of the state.

### Contract Suggestions

Agreeing, however, that there should be some sort of a written contract between the landlord and tenant, the commission accepted the contract committee's report, which proposed the following recommendations:

That there should be a written contract between landlord and tenant; that the contract specify the share which both are to receive; that the sharecropper receive not less than one-half of the crop; that the landlord shall provide a dwelling house for tenants of a standard recommended by the commission; that accounts between landlord and sharecropper be itemized and made in duplicate, one for landlord and one for tenant; that disputes under contract shall be submitted for arbitration to a committee proposed for the purpose; that contract shall be automatically renewed from year to year unless written notice to contrary be given by first of October; that acceptance of these provisions by landlord be made a condition prerequisite to receiving any Government benefits.

C. T. Carpenter of Marked Tree, acting chairman, gave the Contract Committee's report in the absence of Chairman Ed I. McKinley, Little Rock, who was prevented from attending by illness.

Charles Goslee, Hot Springs, who has been serving as acting secretary of the commission, was elected to that office today.

Mr. Carpenter offered a resolution praising Governor Bailey and Mr. Palmer for their efforts. It was unanimously adopted.

# Hamilton Negro Farmers Exhibit

JASPER—More than 2,000, including negro farmers, school children, teachers, principals of schools and pastors of churches, assembled at the A M E church here to celebrate the second annual achievement day program of the negro farm demonstration service of Hamilton county supervised by the negro farm agent, N H Bennett.

The unique exhibit displayed in the agent's office, represented samples of crops raised by adult and junior members of the various clubs, on which prizes were awarded for meritorious work. These were judged by J J Sechrist and S C Kierce, white county agents of Hamilton and Suwannee counties.

The parade through the city included approximately 150 autos and 200 4-H club boys from Hamilton and South Suwannee county, terminated at the A M E church where the mayor of the city, W W Bradshaw, welcomed the visitors, representing 10 counties, to the city. Dr J R E Lee, president of A and M college, Tallahassee, was the main speaker. Other speakers were: R E Holley, president Florida memorial college, Live Oak; James P Davis, head field officer, soil conservation service, Little Rock, Ark, and A A Turner, supervisor farm agents, A and M college, Tallahassee.

The topic of the speakers centered around the objectives of the program, which was to promote the interest of all negroes, both rural and urban, and to stimulate better cooperation between the races; also, the proper education of youth.

Mayor Bradshaw said the shipment of a carload of sugar cane to Detroit, this week by the negro farmers of Hamilton county, illustrated advantages of cooperating and working together. He also pointed out how much co-

operation would help local businesses and even the county, state, and federal government. Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat  
November 6, 1938

## FARM EXHIBIT'S FUND \$53 SHORT

94 Persons or Firms Have  
Contributed Cash

Only contributions totaling \$53 are needed to make sure that all prize-winners at the county agriculture exhibit will receive their premiums. County Agent K S McMullen announced today.

So far, 94 contributors have donated \$527 in cash to the exhibit fund and \$580 is needed to provide prizes which have been set up in the premium list.

McMullen first told the Retail Merchants association that he could put on the exhibit for \$400 but since then the merchants' advisory committee has approved

in addition to a Future Farmers of America exhibit and a poultry show.

Other events will be the state boys' pig club contest, and exhibits by white and negro home demonstration organizations, and white and negro 4-H club demonstrations for both boys and girls.

The exhibit will be held at Recreation Park Nov 11-12. There will be no commercial exhibits and no carnival features, although home demonstration clubs are expected to set up refreshment booths in the building or on its grounds.

The most recent group of contributors, reported today by the merchant advisory group, include:

Eli Witt, George's Place, H W Grimsley, H B Barineau, Capt C D Pedrick, John Morrell and company, Miller's Bootery, Midyette-Moor, H E Bierly, J O Bowman and company, Rivers Brothers, Alford Brothers, The Vogue, McCrory's, W A Bass and County Judge W Max Walker.

River Junction, Fla. Tribune  
November 4, 1938  
Negro Farmers of County  
Being Aided in Planning an  
Increase in Potatoes and Cane

The negro farmers of Gadsden county, under supervision of John P. Howell, negro farm agent, are being assisted in cooperation with the white agent, in planning for a substantial increase in the acreage of sugar cane and sweet potato crops in 1939.

More than two thousand persons, including negro farmers, school teachers and principals, and pastors of churches assembled at the African Methodist Episcopal church in Jasper Friday of last week, celebrating the Second Annual Achievement Day program of the negro farm agent.

The exhibits displaying samples of crops grown by various club members, both adult and junior members, were judged by J. J. Sechrist and S. C. Kierce, county agents (white) of Hamilton county, and were awarded prizes for the meritorious work done by the clubs.

The parade through the city which included approximately 150 automobiles and 200 4-H club boys from Hamilton and South Suwannee counties terminated at the A. M. E. church where the mayor of the city, W. W. Bradshaw, welcomed the visitors representing ten counties. Dr. J. R. E. Lee, president Florida A & M. College, Tallahassee, was the main speaker.

The topics for this program centered around the objectives of the program: To promote the interests of all negroes, both rural and urban population, and to stimulate a better type cooperation between the races; also, proper education for the youths.

Mayor Bradshaw stated that the shipment of a carload of sugar cane to Detroit, Mich., the past week by the negro farmers of Hamilton county illustrated the advantage of cooperating and working together. He also stated this would help the local businesses and aid the county, state and federal governments when the farmers could pay their taxes more promptly. The board of county commissioners was represented by H. Milton, of Jasper.

The achievement day program for the negro farmers and the 4-H clubs is scheduled for Gadsden county Friday, November 25, assisted by County Agent Henry Hudson and Miss Elise Laffitte, county home demonstration agent.



# Condition of Rural Slums In Cotton Belt Charged by Federal Survey

Four Sore Spots Of American Farm Life Are Listed By FSA—  
Tennessee and Kentucky Mountain Areas And  
Arkansas Ozark Hill Sector Branded

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, May 28.—The Agriculture Department reported today that four geographical sections of the country were the economic and social sore spots of American rural life. It estimated that a third of the farm population lived under slum conditions. The areas it listed were:

The Appalachian-Ozark Highlands, embracing the rugged sections of West Tennessee and Kentucky, the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and Tennessee, the Great Smokies of North Georgia and the hills of Georgia and Alabama and the Ozarks of Missouri and Arkansas. Existence of more than 2,865,000 tenant families, embracing a total

The Cotton Belt of the South, stretching from the South Atlantic Seaboard into West Texas, Northern Arizona and New Mexico.

The Great Lakes cut-over land, embracing between 75 and 80 counties in Northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The number of farm families with an annual gross income of \$600 or less runs higher in these regions than elsewhere in the country, the department said in a social research report prepared by the Farm Security Administration and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

WASHINGTON, July 5.—Rules "If slum conditions mean poor housing, lack of household facilities and sanitation, ill health, insufficient income to buy even the physical necessities of life, and few or week ago—but no pictures were no opportunities to participate in taken and the pen was not awarded the consumption of cultural goods to anyone. In fact, no publicity and services, then rural slums are issued at all then.

a reality in many sections," it said. The AAA Press Section was Describing the report as "frank-ready with the customary release ly a story of the dark side of the time, but larger farm-think-American rural life," the authors in the department got to think-said their studies showed that "ling the edicts might not look very is a conservative estimate that one good in print. As Mr. Roosevelt third of the farm families of the was then making those New York Nation are living on standards ospeeches denouncing regimented living so low as to make them slumations, it was deemed wise to let the 47-page ukase dawn gradually upon the public mind—particularly said, at least 3,250,000 — or more Part IV, Section 401, which will al-than one out of four—rural families ways hereafter be known as "the received public assistance at some decree of the white sheep and red time. Other findings listed in the goats."

report included:

Existence of more than 500,000 families on "land that is so poor that it will literally starve them if they continue to try to make a living on it."

Migration of nearly 3,000,000 per sons from farms to urban areas and from the latter back to rural areas each year, in attempts to find better economic opportunities.

...e, his name, address, signature. Incidentally, when all the work- and a code number locating them have their Social Security serial farm by state and county. He numbers and the farmers have to be a white sheep, a man of theirs, the Government will have honor. practically everybody's number.

To goats who do not sign up, Who is responsible for drawing card of deepest red is to be issued the color line on cotton farmers containing the same data as this a matter of confusing debate. Mr. white cards, but printed on card Wallace's friends blame it on Con-board hued with the mark of shame. They say it is in the law. (or is it courage?). He is to be But they wrote the law, or most of red goat, a man to be shunned it. This card distribution provision, all except Republicans. however, is one which they insist they did not write.

No others are to exist among co Obviously they are hesitant about ton farmers, only white or red public reaction to it, although they do not know any better means of enforcing what they are trying to do.

## Complications Ahead For Red 'Goat'

This is not being done just for Federal fun. It is Government business of extraordinary seriousness.

When a buyer goes to a cotton farmer, or vice versa, the farmer must produce his card before his farmers and sharecroppers in the cotton. If the farmer has a white card, everything is fine. The buyer can buy all he wants. But if a farmer should happen to turn out to be a loathsome goat, and shows a red card, things immediately become very complicated for him.

The buyer must then make a record of every bale bought and send a complete report to the AAA. Mr. Mitchell suggested a five-year at once, for the first thing. Then the farmer's quota is marked on his card, be he sheep or goat. If goat, and he wants to sell more than he can make a subsistence card allowed him to produce, the living, supplemented by a public buyer must collect two cents a pound penalty tax from him on the surplus—and send the money to the AAA.

If red goats sell less than their quota (they might distribute their products to several buyers) the buyer must report just how much he bought and point out that it is in excess of the quota. The AAA keeps track of these reports through a long and tedious system "Since the Wage and Hour Bill of checking, so if any red goat es-excludes all agricultural labor as capes, Government agents will de- does the Labor Relations Law and scend upon him and nick him for all social security legislation, it is his penalty—theoretically, at any only fair and logical for the Gov-rate. Thus is the AAA "making democracy work."

Some Loopholes  
Left In Regulations

The regulations contain about 22,560 legal words, so it may be dangerous to say what is and what is not in them, but first reading fails to disclose what will happen to anyone counterfeiting white cards or to a white sheep who might rent his card out to a red goat after a hailstorm, etc.

Whatever it is, it will unquestionably be dire, as the AAA is powerful and will eventually have on file every worth-while fact about every farmer—as well as his number.

MONDAY JULY 18 1938

Frederick Douglas  
Patterson

President, Tuskegee Institute,  
Tuskegee, Alabama,

## Answers:

(By Telegraph)

THE SOUTH has been kept back by a vicious cycle of exploitation of its human and material resources as a fallacious survival technique. This exploitation has been due in large part to absentee ownership, inseparably linked with cotton culture. Present condition of world markets is an acutely aggravating factor, but cotton culture at best yields only a fair profit on small-scale operations, due to large labor requirement.

Solution; mechanized cotton culture; increased local consumption; diversification in agriculture and industry; organized program of research to check waste and develop latent possibilities.



# G. V. P. Brain Trust Will King Cotton Marching Westward, Survey Study Aids to Agriculture Of WPA Workers Shows Administrators

CHICAGO, July 17.—(P)—The American farmer and his troubles with markets at home and abroad will be one of the first problems considered by the Republican Program Committee at its Summer session here during the first week of August, Dr. Glenn Frank, Chairman, said tonight.

"Agriculture is basic to the prosperity of the United States," he said, "and its present bitter difficulties must receive fundamental consideration."

"To that end we have organized a 'round table' of agricultural discussion under the leadership of Dr. Asher Hobson, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics in the University of Wisconsin."

Dr. Frank said the assistance of a distinguished group of agricultural leaders had been secured to give the committee the benefit of their experience.

Some 150 members of the committee, he added, would be present for the "Institute on Public Problems," which will begin Aug. 1.

Five other round tables will be announced soon, with the schedule of business meetings at which the committee will discuss and decide its course of activities between now and the time when it will make its final recommendations or public policy to the Republican National Committee in Washington.

Those he said would participate in the agricultural discussion included Dr. J. S. Davis, Director of the Food Research Institute of Leland Stanford University, Palo Alto, Cal.; Dr. H. C. Taylor, Director of the Farm Foundation, Chicago; Dr. T. W. Schultz, head of the Department of Economics and Sociology in the State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, Ames, Iowa.

Dr. Karl Brandt, once professor in the College of Agriculture of the University of Berlin and special agricultural adviser to the former German government, now professor-elect in Leland Stanford; Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Director of the Social Science Department of Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., and Director of the Institute of Race Relations at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.

Benjamin Anderson, Economist of the Chase National Bank, New York; C. C. Teague, President of the California Fruit Growers' Exchange; John Brandt, President of Land o' Lakes Co-operative

creameries, Minneapolis; Dr. George S. Wehrwein, Professor of Agricultural Economics in the University of Wisconsin.

## CALVIN'S DIGEST

By FLOYD J. CALVIN

### SOUTHERN ECONOMICS

The economic underpinnings of the South have been exposed to the spotlight of publicity by the National Emergency Council, which has reported to the President that the South is the Nation's "No. 1 Economic Problem."

While there are numerous problems which bedevil the Southern situation, it appears that Cotton and Tenant Farming are the two thirds of its cash income. More than half of its farmers depend on cotton alone.... The cotton market is a sheer gamble. On this gamble nearly 2,000,000 Southern families stake their year's work and everything they own. The men who finance cotton farming charge high interest rates because their money is subject to far more than the normal commercial risk. This process has forced more than half of the South's farmers into the status of tenants, tilling land they do not own. Whites and Negroes have suffered alike. Of the 1,831,000 tenant families in the region, about 66 per cent are white. Approximately half the sharecroppers are white, living under economic conditions almost identical with those of Negro sharecroppers.

It is a dreary, sad report on a land that is the traditional home of so many native Americans. Something ought to be done, and it looks like the man of the hour—President Roosevelt—is ready to strike.

It was one of many trends cited in a 225-page report on changes in productivity of labor in agriculture. Not alone for cotton but for general farm production, the investigators wrote, there has been a tendency to contract in the East and to expand in the West.

Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina Are Losing Pre-dominance in Growing Field to Texas and Mississippi

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3 (P)—Relief Administrator Hopkins received from WPA investigators today the quarter-century story of a westward shift of the cotton industry.

Thus, in Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina, where farmers for generations back knew cotton as king, the way has been cleared for increased production of other crops—corn, peanuts, tobacco and fruits.

The report said this area at best had been able only to hold its own in the cotton industry, while newer growing sections—from the Mississippi delta westward—had increased their production from 20 to 40 per cent.

In 1909, Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina had 10,275,000 acres planted to cotton. The report said depression prices and the boll weevil were responsible for a decline to 7,144,000 acres in 1922. In 1936, these states had 6,020,000 acres in cotton cultivation.

The delta area's cotton acreage was 6,119,000 in 1909. The boll weevil was felt earlier in this section than in the East, and by the early twenties plantings were on the upgrade. The peak was reached with 9,593,000 in 1930, but a drop in prices and the AAA curtailment program resulted in decreased acreage during the years that followed. But in 1936, the delta had 6,905,000 acres planted to cotton, considerably more than 25 years before. The delta area, for purposes of the study, includes Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

### Western Section Up

In the western area—Oklahoma and Texas—cotton accounted for 11,874,000 acres in 1909, and the planting reached its peak in 1925 with 22,624,000 acres. As in the other areas, there was a decline after 1930, and the two states had 14,124,000 acres in cotton in 1936.

Discussing the eastern cotton states, the report described them as "an area of small farms and of relatively large acreages in woodland or low-grade pasture."

"Only a little over one-third of the land in farms is in harvested crops," it added. "Soil erosion and competition from areas to the West have caused a marked contraction in agriculture here. Cotton is by far the most important product, followed by corn, peanuts and tobacco."

Much of the cotton land, it explained, has been turned to corn and hay, which require much less labor per acre. On the other hand, tobacco,



Agriculture-1938

Condition of

**President Roosevelt and the South**

We have not had an opportunity to read in full the report of the National Emergency Council, and that portion which relates to economic ills of the South, but we are assured that no movement started by President Roosevelt more vitally affects Negroes.

President Roosevelt is the only president of the United States who has had the courage to speak out against the evils that carry over from slavery and which makes out of the southland a howling wilderness of destitution and want. If you have never thought about it, your mental processes should start functioning when it is pointed out that the South is the land of pellagra and malnutrition, the South is the land of poor schools, low incomes and high death rate.

No other section of American has such wonderful natural advantages. The South is rich in soil, climate, minerals. Why should another section of the nation less favored by nature enjoy blessings unknown to that section of America below the Mason-Dixon Line? Anyone who has discourses ought be able to see that some half hidden political and economic forces have been at work across the years to bring about this condition. The truth is that the distress of the South is man-made and the President of the United States has had the moral courage to say so.

In the South today there is a population of 71 per cent white and 29 per cent colored. Every one knows that a business is profitable or a failure based on a margin of 10 per cent. So long as the South persists in making social and economic outcasts of 29 per cent of its population, just so long will the land Jefferson Davis loved be as the Prophet Isaiah described a land of desolation when he said Ethiopia was

*Chloroma*  
"a nation scattered and peeled . . . trodden down and whose lands the rivers have spoiled."

The South has persisted since the War between the States continuing an economic system which had its roots human bondage. It created a share crop and farm tenant system to perpetuate the ruinous profits which went to the landowner during the ante-bellum period. Southern statesmen inaugurated the vagrancy plan in order to corral all Negroes in an economic net not compassed by their plantation system who showed an unwillingness to work for low wages.

Every evil has within itself the seeds of its own destruction. Today, in the South more than a million white farmers find themselves caught in the net originally set for black men. The poor white man is the victim of the South's economic setup just as definitely as is his black brother. Pellagra, hookworm and all of the by-products of poverty have gripped millions of white workers and in addition have finally pulled the southern landowner himself down to unthinkable levels of economic difficulty. This is the reason why many plantations once prosperous are today abandoned weed fields.

President Roosevelt is fighting for high wage levels for

all of the citizens of the South. If there is any efficacy and virtue in the slogan used during National Sales Week that "Sales Mean Jobs", then there must be developed a plan to increase the average income of the South's workers.

When this is done definite recognition must be given to the black women of the South, many of whom receive \$2 and \$3 for the human energy expended each week. Roughly speaking, what President Roosevelt seeks to bring home to the Southern leader is that you cannot destroy the wages of the Negroes and white workers in the South without destroying the South.

**REPORT ON THE SOUTH**

The long-awaited report of the National Emergency Council and its advisory committee of 22 representative southern leaders contains little new information. There are no recommendations for the alleviation of the conditions cited. Some problems which would seem to be of grave import may appear to have been slighted.

The value of this summarization, accomplished with great administration fanfare, will rest not in the report proper, but in an awakening—if that is not too much to hope for—of other sections of the country to a realization that the south has been oppressed for 75 years by an industrial east and middle west for selfish ends. It will rest in a recognition that inequalities in opportunity must be wiped out.

Above all, however, its value will rest, and can only be attained, through a redoubled co-operation of southern leaders, in whose hands alone will lie, in the final analysis, the responsibility for the elimination of problems again highlighted in the report.

These problems are not new to thinking southerners, or to thinking Americans. The fight against them is not new, nor does it require saying that great accomplishments have been made in the past under almost insurmountable difficulties.

Whether or not the realization of the need for and the advantages of co-operation comes to other sections of the country, the spadework and the fight must come from the south. The good will of other sections will not win the battle, or gain for the south any major concessions.

The advice of other regions will not accomplish the needed diversification in crops, or improvement in farm homes. These things must be accomplished by co-operation of rural

and urban leaders in and of the south. Gains have been made each year, but the experience of the past has been that only through education can these aims be secured.

In the industrial field, the increase in manufacturing in the south has created a situation which in isolated cases may appear chaotic. This has been true in any country and every region in which industry has sprung from the soil. These are the birth pangs of growth; these pangs in the south have been lessening through the years. Wages have apparently been low, yet have slowly climbed. It must be remembered that in the south the workman has been paid a greater proportion of the value of the goods he produces than has been the case in other sections of the country; and there are other compensations which narrow the apparent spread in pay rates. Undoubtedly, abuses exist. They have existed in the south as well as in other sections of the country and cannot be condoned. Yet all southern industry cannot be tarred with the same brush. The necessity is for businesses which will more nearly balance the industrial structure of the region. This, in time, is inevitable, but it must be evident that no general panacea will correct a basic fault overnight.

The south is, potentially, the richest section of the country. A great fault of the south has been, at times, an attitude of defeatism. This, happily, has been changing and it may be that the report of the NEC will do much to eliminate this state of mind.

The answer to the report lies in a united south. A south united to demand that inequalities admitted by administration authorities be ironed out—after which the progress of the section will be assured without the meddling for which the groundwork is apparently



being laid. No new reconstruction government is desired or will be tolerated. The first such government imposed colonial burdens on the south. It has taken half a century and more to grow away from that tragedy. With that lesson in mind, the south must be vigilant in its determination that no new such government be allowed to burden the region with barriers to progress along natural lines.

In southern resources and in southern leadership and co-operation lie the answer to southern progress, which heretofore has not been marked with the stagnation evident in the east

Unjust burdens must be removed. That accomplished, the south need look only to its people for the answer to the problems recapitulated in the report of the NEC and its advisors.

### Southern Lag

At the last session of Congress attention was directed to the economic backwardness of the South by the South's own Senators and Representatives; in debate over the Wages and Hours Bill they insisted on retaining the competitive advantage of the South's relatively lower labor standards. After Congress adjourned President Roosevelt called a conference of Southern spokesmen in Washington to throw light on conditions in the South, which he called "the nation's No. 1 economic problem." The South's lag, he said, created a national imbalance which "can and must be righted." In his speeches in Georgia last week the President again stressed this objective.

On Friday, on the President's return to Washington, a report resulting from the July conference was made public by the National Emergency Council. It described the South as having:

**Per Capita Income—\$314.** (In the rest of the country it averaged last year \$604.)

**Eroded Land—61 per cent** of the country's badly damaged acres.

**College Endowments—Less,** in all thirteen States classified as "The South," than the combined endowments of Harvard and Yale.

**Pellagra—A virtual monopoly** on this disease of malnutrition.

**Houses—The worst** in the country. New homes needed for 4,000,000 families.

The report spoke of various causes:

Absentee ownership of Southern resources, high cost of credit, the protective tariff on manufactured goods, the "gamble" of cotton growing. There were no recommendations for remedies. Chairman Lowell Mellett of the NEC, in transmitting the report, said that the

willingness of Southerners to face the facts "would seem to assure \* \* \* that something will be done about it."

## What Is The Black Belt?

Of all the sections in Alabama which have been discussed, maligned and praised, none quite equals that section known as the Black Belt—and the interest which the bare mention of the Black Belt arouses can be excelled only by the ignorance, particularly the geographical ignorance, which enshrouds it in the public mind.

Virtually everything that goes wrong with this State is blamed on the Black Belt. It is the Black Belt politician who is responsible for our legislative apportionment; it is the Black Belt county which receives the first consideration in the matter of roads; it is the Black Belt county which grabs off more than its share of the school money; it is the Black Belt citizen who is responsible for all reactionary steps taken by the State—and so far into the night. Recently somebody even charged that if it weren't for the Black Belt, we would long ago have had a State-wide stock law; they were ignorant of the fact that in the Black Belt counties, you can find more stock laws than anywhere else in the State—but somebody had to be blamed, so the Black Belt caught it in the neck.

These things are attributed to the Black Belt by the average citizen without this average citizen having even the faintest idea of what constitutes the Black Belt. The average citizen from North Alabama thinks that the Black Belt is all of South Alabama, and the average citizen from South Alabama thinks that it is most of Middle Alabama. It has never occurred to the average citizen that the Black Belt proper touches—we emphasize "touches"—only 13 out of the 67 counties in the State, and that not a single one of even these 13 counties lies wholly within the Black Belt.

\* \* \* \* \*

First of all, the Black Belt got its name from the color of its soil—when that soil is wet—and not from the color of its people. The Black Belt happens to be predominantly Negro, but that is only a secondary matter. The soil gave it its name.

The Black Belt is more properly known as the Black Prairie Belt (this is the name that the Department of Agriculture uses), and it is a narrow, crescent-shaped strip of land which extends

through Alabama and Mississippi. It starts in up to have one together, as do the Black Belt counties of Greene and Hale and the Black Belt from the Georgia line, extends westward and then slightly northward, and on into Mississippi. After reaching Mississippi, it goes sharply northwestward and almost due north for more than 100 miles, and then plays out 40 or 50 miles from the Tennessee line.

It may astonish you, but the Black Belt has an average width of only 30 miles, and at no point that they are all Black Belters—what manner of is it more than about 40 miles wide. It barely touches Macon and Bullock Counties, it covers a good part of Montgomery and most of Lowndes. Lowndes, in fact, is the most thoroughly Black Belt county in the State. The belt hits a tiny corner of Butler, skirts into Wilcox, covers a good part of Dallas, and the lower end of Perry. It hits the northwestern fourth of Marengo, covers the south halves of both Hale and Greene, a fair part of Sumter, and leaves the State on the Southern tip of Pickens.

That is all the territory that the Black Belt covers in Alabama, and even though such counties as Macon and Bullock are referred to as Black Belt counties, they get that way only by the scratch of their teeth. When somebody refers to Barbour County as a Black Belt county (as they constantly do), or to Chauncey Sparks as a Black Belt politician, you had better put them wise, or get Mr. Sparks to move. Barbour is not in the Black Belt, and Mr. Sparks of Barbour is not a Black Belt politician.

The soils of the Black Belt have been roughly placed in two general groups—lime soils and non-lime soils. The entire belt is underlain with a stratum of highly calcareous material consisting largely of "rotten" limestone known as Selma chalk. The lime soils were originally very fertile, but most of them have long ago been worn out through continued cropping to corn and cotton. The Black Belt has also suffered heavily from erosion, but the entire Black Belt has now turned its attention to the production of livestock, and it foresees a new day. When properly terraced, fertilized and planted in grasses and clovers, this land can produce some of the finest pastures on the globe. When denied gravel or pavement, it can also produce the world's worst roads; roads which, when wet, make soft lard look like slag.

Getting back to the political part of our discussion, the Black Belt is always accused of holding the whip-handle in this State—but let us see for a moment.

\* \* \* \* \*

We have already pointed out that not a single Alabama county is wholly within the Black Belt, and that only 13 out of the 67 counties can even be remotely classed as Black Belt counties. In the Alabama House of Representatives, there are 105 members, with the representation from those

counties, which we have generously assigned to the Black Belt being as follows: Macon, 1; Bullock, 2; Montgomery, 4; Butler, 2; Lowndes, 2; Dallas, 3; Wilcox, 2; Perry, 2; Marengo, 2; Hale, 2; Greene, 1; Sumter, 2; Pickens, 1. That makes 26 in all, and how in the name of heaven can 26 men run a House whose membership is 106? We are always being told that if it weren't for those Black Belters, the House could do this, or do that—but why doesn't it go ahead? Even though the Black Belt counties have a higher representation than they deserve, surely 26 Black Belters cannot overwhelm those 80 members whom we must classify as non-Black Belters!

Now look at the Senate. Lowndes County has one senator, Marengo has one, Wilcox has one, Dallas has one, Montgomery has one. The two Black Belt counties of Pickens and Sumter team up to have one together, as do the Black Belt counties of Greene and Hale and the Black Belt counties of Bullock and Macon. Perry shares its senator with the non-Black Belt county of Bibb, while Butler goes one better by sharing its senator with the two non-Black Belt counties of Conecuh and Covington.

That makes ten senators in all, and it is stretching the imagination to label all ten of those senators as from the Black Belt. Granted, however, that they are all Black Belters—what manner of is it more than about 40 miles wide. It barely touches Macon and Bullock Counties, it covers a good part of Montgomery and most of Lowndes. There may be elements in this State which do the things of which the Black Belt is accused, and the Black Belt may assist in doing these things, but to hold the Black Belt entirely responsible is carrying it too far. We are sorely in need of a few new definitions for this State, and a little more understanding.—Tuscaloosa News.



Agriculture - 1938

Condition of

## FARM HAND'S LOT IS STUDIED

## Economists Find His Pay Lagging Behind

## Gains in Agriculture and Industry

By FRANK GEORGE

WASHINGTON. — A million men who worked on the harvests last fall are in cities, towns and villages this Winter. They are the army of field workers who follow the crops seasonally. Many were included in the unemployment census; some are on temporary Winter jobs; all await the stirrings of Spring to follow the crops once more.

January is the low month in farm labor employment. Work gradually increases through Spring and Summer and reaches a peak in August, when about 2,600,000 hired laborers are on the farms. Employment falls off through November, but the big "lay-off" is in December. By Jan. 1 the farm labor force is down to about 1,600,000.

## Seasonal Changes

Government agencies now are studying the seasonal changes in farm employment, the pay received by farm hands, the perquisites of board and housing which supplement wages, and the working and living conditions of farm laborers. The Federal economists say that farm wages have lagged behind agricultural and industrial improvement the last five years; they want to know why.

The effects of farm mechanization—past, present, and prospective—are being studied. Not only the harvesting, but the planting and cultivating of practically all crops have been mechanized. Grain is a machine-made product; cotton will be as soon as mechanical cotton pickers are perfected. No machine yet picks fruit off trees, but the harvesting of many vegetables—principally potatoes—is a machine job.

Government statistics are not clear as to the extent of the replacement of farm laborers by machines in the last twenty-five years but government estimates are made that whereas the farm payroll in the late Nineteen-Twenties was about \$900,000,000 a year, it is now only \$600,000,000. And although the farm hand now is also

mechanic, wages are reported little higher than the pay of farm laborers a quarter century ago.

The most "secure" farm hands are those on the dairy farms. These have year-around employment. Their pay may be only \$50 a month but they are also provided with a house, sometimes a patch of garden, and use of the owner's farm implements. On many New York dairy farms are hands whose fathers before them were employed on the same farms through several generations.

## Insecurity of Itinerants

The "insecure" are those who work for agricultural entrepreneurs who go into and out of agriculture as prices rise and fall. They are the army of itinerants who follow the crops North, South, East and West—the truck crop hands along the Eastern seaboard, the sugar beet workers in the Northwest. Many are professional casual laborers; many are persons in the "drifter" class.

The cotton picker is probably the least itinerant. In seasons of idleness he lives in a shack on the plantation or in a hutch in a nearby town or village. But his poverty often is indescribable. The Southern share cropper is equally insecure in the system of "store credits" under which he works. By the season's end he frequently owes more than his share of the crop. To escape his debts, he moves to another farm.

## Eleven Areas Surveyed

A recent government survey of farm-labor conditions in eleven areas the country over—the Corn Belt, the Wheat Belt, the cattle and sheep country, the tobacco, cotton,

fruit and dairy regions—found laborers "of all races and abilities; there were young men and old, and some women; some had hope of eventually becoming farm owners, but many were stalled on the lowest rung of the agricultural ladder."

The investigators reported that in some areas men of 60 years or more were working in the fields and

orchards. A third of all the men were 40 years of age and over. Northern laborers were found to have more education than laborers in other sections, and white laborers more than other races. Few Southern workers had more than elementary education.

Annual earnings were found to vary greatly in each area, but more so as between areas. The average ranged from \$62 among female Negro cotton pickers and \$178 among male Negro cotton pickers in Louisiana, to \$347 among white laborers in Pennsylvania, and \$748 among the Orientals in Placer County, Calif. The average earnings of the Southern workers interviewed were little more than half the average earnings of the Northern workers.

## Little Outside Income

The investigators found in most areas a negligible proportion of the workers had any income from non-agricultural work, but that those who lived on the farms where they worked generally received some perquisites in addition to wages by way of board, lodging, food, and house rent. Many were on relief in Winter.

Twenty-five years ago, investigators usually contrasted favorably the economic condition of the farm laborer with that of the city laborer of comparable skill. But this was in the days when bricklayers and carpenters (skilled artisans) were getting only \$3 a day, when they worked. The bricklayer and carpenter now get more than twice this pay, but farm wage rates are reported to have changed little in a quarter century.

Government officials are watching, too, the efforts being made to unionize farm laborers in industrialized agricultural regions—in California, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, and the sugar beet areas of the Great Plains.

More farm hands are reported unionized today than ever before, but some labor experts question the permanency of the movement as farm wages rise in response to farm labor supply and demand conditions.

## Unionization Difficult

In the past, farm labor unions have sprung up only to disappear as economic conditions improved

And a condition regarded as preventing the unionization of the whole body of farm labor is that most labor is employed on so-called "family" farms as contrasted with "industrial" farms. On these, in many cases, the hired man is almost a member of the family. During the agricultural depression many hands were kept on these farms, even though employers were unable to earn wages. Seeds of discontent are difficult to sow under such conditions.

The government economists believe that farm laborers—both permanent and casual hands—who aspire to become farm owners need help. But with that as a basis for extending aid, the problems of all require careful study and analysis in national economic and social interest. The problems of the farm owner, the tenant and the share

cropper are fairly understood; now the farm laborer is receiving attention.

## WHEN WILL MACHINES DO THEIR WORK?



Roberts

Southern cotton pickers—The government is studying influences of farm mechanization and crop prices on the farm laborer.



## Provisions of Farm Bill On Cotton Crop Outlined

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Because of yesterday's action by the national house in passing the revised crop control bill, the following digest of provisions, as affecting cotton, is of particular interest at present. It was prepared by Weil Brothers, cotton merchants with an office here, and is printed for public information as that concern's interpretation.

**BENEFITS:** No benefit payments for cotton are appropriated other than those hitherto payable under the Soil Conservation Act. This means the benefit payments for the 1938 cotton crop will be about \$100,000,000, or somewhat less than half the amount for the 1937 crop, which included \$130,000,000 appropriated at the last regular session of congress for price adjustment payments.

To qualify for benefits the grower must conform to the soil conservation program, planting cotton only such acreage as will be allotted him by his county committee.

Landlords, tenants and sharecroppers receive soil conservation payments in proportion to their respective contributions to the carrying out of soil conserving practices. No change in relationship between landlord and tenant or sharecropper is permitted to increase the landlord's payments. There are provisions to increase small payments by specified percentages and limit payments to any one person to \$10,000, this limitation not applicable however to 1938.

**ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS:** On or before Nov. 15 for subsequent crop years, and within 10 days of enactment for the 1938 crop, the secretary of agriculture must proclaim the national cotton allotment. The allotment will be the number of bales which, with the estimated carryover, will make available a supply equal to a normal year's domestic consumption and exports, plus 40 per cent.

For 1938, the minimum allotment is fixed at 10,000,000 bales, plus an amount to give every county not less than 60 per cent of its 1937 acreage, which will bring the total to about 10,700,000 bales. Due to the large carryover that will be on hand this summer, this practically sets the goal for the 1938 crop at 10,700,000 bales.

## Five-Year Base

The national allotment is apportioned among the states on the basis of their productions for the five preceding years, with allowance for acreage diverted under previous programs; and the bales allotment for each state is translated into acres by dividing into it the state average yield for the five preceding years.

Two per cent of the acreage allotment for each state is available for farms not producing cotton the past three years. The remaining 98 per cent is apportioned to the counties on the basis of acreage during the five preceding years. The county allotments are distributed to individ-

pound in the case of the 1938 crop and three cents per pound for subsequent crops.

Any grower dissatisfied with his quota may have it reviewed by a local committee of three farmers appointed by the secretary of agriculture, provided he applies for review within 15 days after the mailing of the notice of his quota. Action of the review committee will be final as to the findings of fact and growers may appeal to the courts only on questions of law.

The marketing penalties are to be collected and remitted by the buyer if the cotton is sold in the U. S. or by the seller if it is sold abroad. Buyers, warehousemen, processors, ginner and common carriers must report such information and keep such records as the secretary may require, and their books and records must be available to his examination, all subject to fine or refusal or false report. Growers are required to furnish proof of their acreage, yield, storage and marketing in such forms as the secretary may prescribe. The secretary is directed to provide means for identification to aid in ascertaining whether cotton is within the quota.

whether cotton is within the quota. Federal district attorneys are required to institute proceedings to collect penalties for extra-quota cotton.

### Other Provisions

**1937 PRICE ADJUSTMENT PAYMENTS:** The last regular session of congress provided for price adjustment payments to cotton growers on 65 per cent base productions under the 1937 program, in an amount equal to 3 cents per pound or to the difference between 12 cents and the middling 7-8-inch price on the day they sold their cotton, whichever is less, subject to their compliance with the 1938 program. The conferees' report provides they shall be entitled to this payment if their acreage planted in 1938 does not exceed the soil conservation allotment or the marketing quota allotment, whichever is less. Cotton remaining in the 1937 loan shall be treated, for the purpose of adjustment payments, as if sold on June 30, 1938.

1937 LOAN: Producers who have placed cotton in the 1937 loan may sell it to the Commodity Credit Corporation at the loan price, and be relieved of liability for accrued interest and charges; moreover the secretary of agriculture, upon proof of the grower's compliance with the 1938 program, shall pay him 2 cents per pound on cotton thus transferred, this however to be deducted from the total due him as price adjustment on his 1937 crop.

g Loans on cotton not thus transferred are extended to July 31, 1939

The CCC is forbidden to sell any of the 1937 crop so acquired and any other cotton held on behalf of the United States unless the proceeds of sale are sufficient to cover all amounts, including price adjustment payments, disbursed by the United States with respect to such cotton. The CCC is also forbidden to sell more than 300,000 bales in any one month or more than 1,500,000

bales in any one year.

All insurance on loan cotton must be taken out in the states where the cotton is located. No loan cotton may be moved from its present place of storage without written consent of the producer.

**FUTURE LOANS:** In any crop year when (A) the price on Aug. 1 has been below 52 per cent of the "parity price" or (b) the August crop estimate exceeds the normal annual consumption and exports, the Commodity Credit Corporation must offer the cotton growers a loan at not less than 52 per cent nor more than 75 per cent of the Aug. 1 "parity price." However no loans shall be made unless the growers, by referendum, accept marketing quotas.

**RESEARCH AND PROMOTION:** \$4,000,000 is appropriated for four regional research laboratories to develop new uses for cotton and \$1,000,000 for promotion of sales.

## Cotton Allotment Based On Acreage Assignment

## Amount for Each County Will Be Divided to Consider

## Small Producers

EDITOR'S NOTE: W. W. Duggan of Sparta, Ga., recently placed in charge of the federal farm programs of the South has written at the request of the Georgia agricultural extension service a series of three articles explaining the new farm act as it applies to cotton specifically. The last of the articles follows:

By IVY W. DUGGAN  
(Director, Southern Division Agricultural  
Adjustment Administration)

ATHENS, Ga., March 1 (AP)—The agricultural adjustment act of 1938 provides for a national cotton acreage allotment which is approximately 26 1-2 million acres for 1938. At normal yields, this should produce in the neighborhood of 11 million bales of cotton.

As the national acreage planted to cotton in 1937 was slightly in excess of 34 1-4 million acres, the acreage allotment in 1938 will be approximately 75 per cent of the acreage planted in 1937.

The law fixed the national allotment for 1938 and 1939 at not less than 10 million bales, but this figure will be increased in order to permit each county a cotton acreage allotment which will be at least 60 per cent as large as the sum of the cotton acreage planted and diverted in 1937.

The national allotment is to be apportioned annually among the states on the basis of their average production during the preceding five years, which shall include cotton that would have grown on acreage that was diverted from cotton production under the adjustment or conservation programs.

### Allotment of Bales

Each state's allotment of bales shall be converted into the number of acres which at average yields would produce this number of bales.

This acreage figure is the "state cotton acreage allotment."

The state acreage allotment is to be apportioned among the counties on the basis of the acreage planted to cotton in each county during the years 1933 to 1937, inclusive, taking into consideration the acres diverted from cotton. The county allotment then may be increased by whatever amount is necessary to assure it of at least 60 per cent of its 1937 planted and diverted cotton acreage.

The county allotment will be divided among individual farms with special consideration for small producers. This proration will give all farms that have grown as much as 5 acres of cotton in any of the past 3 years an allotment of at least 5 acres, and farms that have planted and diverted not more than 5 acres in any of the 3 years will receive the largest number of acres planted and diverted in any year during that period. A small county reserve will be available, and will be divided among producers otherwise receiving between 5 and 15 acres.

The remainder of the county allotment will be divided in such manner as to give each farm in the county or administrative area a uniform percentage of the tilled land on the farm as his cotton acreage allotment.

### Acreage Defined

Tilled land for the farm is the 1937 crop land less orchards and vineyards, permanently idle land, and the acreage devoted to wheat, tobacco, and rice for market. However, no farm may have an allotment greater than its planted and diverted cotton acreage in any of the past 3 years.

The 1938 marketing quota of an individual farm will be either the actual or the normal amount of cotton produced on the farm's acreage allotment plus any cotton carried over from the 1937 crop. In other words, the farmer may sell without restriction all the cotton he can produce on his allotted acreage.

On all cotton sold in excess of acreage allotment, he will lose his or longer in staple, such as Georgia's sea island cotton.



# Provisions of Farm Bill On Cotton Crop Outlined

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Because of yesterday's action by the national house in passing the revised crop control bill, affecting the cotton crop, it is of particular interest at present. It was prepared by the Cotton Branch, cotton merchants with an office here, and is printed for public information as that concerns interpretation.

**BENEFITS:** No benefit payments for cotton are appropriated other than those hitherto payable under the Soil Conservation Act. This means the 1938 cotton crop will be about \$100,000,000, or somewhat less than half the amount for the 1937 crop, which included \$130,000,000 appropriated at the last regular session of congress for price adjustment payments.

To qualify for benefits the grower must conform to the soil conservation program plan. Cotton only such acreage as will be allotted him by his county committee.

**Landlords, tenants and sharecroppers receive soil conservation payments in proportion to their respective contributions to the carrying soil conserving crops planted on out of soil conserving practices.** No verted acres may be used only for change in relationship between production of products to be conserved and tenant or sharecropper summed on the farm. The farmer is permitted to increase the land-allowed to feed products of diverted crops. There are provisions for other than dairy stock, unless the specified percentages and limit payments to any one person to \$10,000, farm. The secretary may forbid under the 1937 program, in this limitation not applicable how-feeding to other livestock if conditions of competition develop which, or to the difference between 12 cents before Nov. 15 for subsequent crop provision was toned down.

**ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS:** On or before Nov. 15 for subsequent crop provision was toned down.

**MARKETING PENALTIES:** If the supply of cotton, composed of carryover on Aug. 1 of any year and the estimated crop for that year, exceeds normal not exceed the acreage planted in 1938 does provide for a national cotton acreage adjustment act of 1938 have less of 34.14 million acres, the acreage adjustment will be approximately 75 per cent of the acreage, which will bring the total to about 10,700,000 bales. Due to the large carryover that will be on hand this summer, this practically sets the goal for the 1938 crop at 10,700,000 bales.

**Five-Year Base**  
The national allotment is apportioned among the states on the basis of their production for the five preceding years, with allowance for acreage diverted under previous programs; and the bales allotment for each state is translated into acres by dividing into it the state average yield for the five preceding years. Two per cent of the acreage allotment for each state is available for farms not producing cotton the past three years. The remaining 98 per cent is apportioned to the counties on the basis of acreage during the five preceding years. The county allotments are distributed to individual

farmers on the basis of tilled acres, less acres diverted to wheat, corn, tobacco, or rice grown for market or for feeding livestock for vored consideration to farms having allotments of less than 15 acres and still more favored consideration to farms having smaller allotments.

**BOILERPLATE AMENDMENT:** If milk whether cotton is within the quota. Federal district attorneys are required to institute proceedings to collect penalties for extra-quota cotton.

**Other Provisions**  
1937 PRICE ADJUSTMENT PAYMENTS: The last regular session of congress provided for price adjustment payments to cotton growers on 65 per cent base production under the 1937 program, in an amount equal to 3 cents per pound and the difference between 12 cents and the middling 7-8-inch price on the day they sold their cotton.

**MARKETING QUOTAS:** If the supply of cotton, composed of carryover on Aug. 1 of any year and the estimated crop for that year, exceeds normal not exceed the acreage planted in 1938 does provide for a national cotton acreage adjustment act of 1938 have less of 34.14 million acres, the acreage adjustment will be approximately 75 per cent of the acreage, which will bring the total to about 10,700,000 bales. Due to the large carryover that will be on hand this summer, this practically sets the goal for the 1938 crop at 10,700,000 bales.

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**RESEARCH AND PROMOTION:** \$4,000,000 is appropriated for four regional research laboratories to develop new uses for cotton and \$1,900,000 for promotion of sales.

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# THE SOUTH TODAY

*Telegraph*  
The City Ways for Rural Poverty

4-10-38  
By ARTHUR RAPER

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(Editor's Note: Arthur Raper, professor of sociology at Agnes Scott College, and research secretary of the commission on interracial co-operation, is author of "Preface to Peasantry," a sociological survey of the tenant farmer situation, considered by many the most comprehensive work on this subject ever written.)

Business men and social scientists agree in stressing the mutual interdependence of the city and the rural community. An increase in farm incomes means a increased volume of business in the city; a decrease in farm incomes means a drop in business. This relationship between urban and rural prosperity is obvious, but the full significance of the interdependence is not so readily grasped.

One important fact to be noted is the basic relation between the growth of cities and the decay of rural communities. In the South the situation is clearly evident, for most of the urban population increase of recent decades has come from impoverished rural sections. The large cities have a relatively low birth rate and their rapid growth has been possible only because rural people have migrated to them in large numbers.

The typical Southern city takes its racial complexion and cultural character no less from its rural migrants than from the cosmopolitan influences of its national and international business interests. It is significant that while a considerable part of the membership of the leading civic clubs of almost any large Southern city come from the North and East the great majority of the unemployed were born and reared on outlying cotton farms. This does not argue that the people who migrated here from other regions have greater innate capacity than Southern farm people, but rather it indicated their relatively superior opportunities for development in economic and cultural pursuits.

## Soil Depleted

A spot map of Georgia, showing the location of the counties with the greatest decrease of farmers since 1920, clearly outlines the old plantation regions of the state. The reasons for the population movement from this area are not far to seek: the havoc wrought by the boll weevil in the early '20's was the immediate cause, while the underlying causes were the progressive depletion of the soil and the impoverishment of the tenant farmers.

With their numbers increasing and their condition growing worse year by year, the landless farmers had become relatively unproductive and

very expensive to the plantation system. When the weevil came, the propertyless tenants were unable to pay their rents and settle their furnishing accounts. The result was that many plantation owners went into bankruptcy. With no advance of food and clothing from landowners, the landless families had no resources with which to remain on the land. A veritable exodus occurred. They left this old plantation area virtual refugees. Able to raise but little money, most of them stopped at the nearest large city—the first place where surpluses had accumulated.

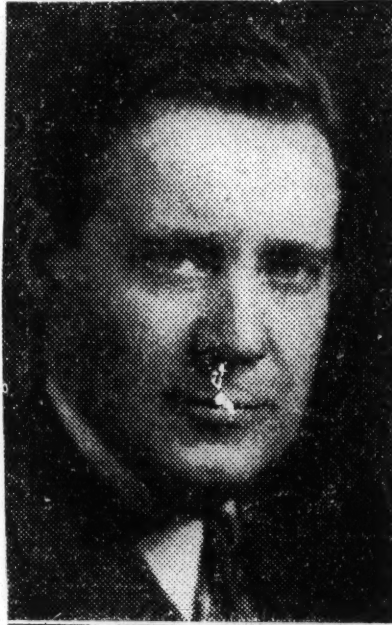
A study of the migrants from one Georgia plantation county shows that ten years after the exodus six times as many of them were living in Atlanta as in any other city, and eight times as many in Georgia as in any other state.

## The City Pays

The adjustment problems of these rural refugees after they reached the cities show how the city pays for rural poverty. Case records of the Atlanta Family Welfare Society revealed that over 80 per cent of their clients from 1923 to 1928 were born outside of Atlanta, and that nearly 75 per cent had migrated to Atlanta from the old plantation section. The region referred to lies across the state, two or three counties deep, just south of Atlanta. Not only did most of the clients come from this area, but about two-thirds of them had been living in Atlanta less than five years when they were first given assistance. Preliminary investigations in Atlanta and other cities show that these rural refugees still swell the list of the chronically unemployed and of the unemployable.

The fact that they were the last comers and that there was a severe shrinkage of city jobs in the early '30's accounts for only a part of their plight. The men folks were unskilled and unacquainted with modern machines. The field tools they had used as tenant farmers were few and simple. Their familiarity with the one-horse gears, single-stock plows, long-handle hoes, and double-blade axes did not prepare them for city jobs. These ex-farmers from the cotton South, with a few noticeable exceptions, had lived in a one-horse civilization.

The farm tenant women knew nothing about the household conveniences of the city homes where they offered themselves for work as domestics. Back on the tenant farms they had done the family wash over tubs, carried water in lard cans or ten-quart buckets, and bathed the



ARTHUR RAPER

children in tin wash pans. While city contractors and factory owners were bearing the cost of initiating the ex-tenant men in the uses of power-driven machines and the methods of mass production, their wives were teaching the ex-tenant women to sweep rugs with vacuum cleaners and walk with confidence on waxed floors.

## Lack Physical Stamina

The health of these migrants was not only for the benefit of those people who dwell in the poorer rural areas but also as a protection to the metropolitan communities whose necessary to hold a job was the by-product of the ex-tenant's inadequate food. Frequently his rural diet had been limited to fatback meat, cornbread, sorghum molasses, and sweet potatoes in season. Scarcely one-half of the families had a cow. Too often their gardens had amounted to little. Only one-tenth had enough home-canned fruits and vegetables to be of any real value. In many of the cotton cabins from which they had come a can of pink salmon was a delicacy.

Medical care of farm tenants and wage hands had been poor enough when the plantation was still regnant. With its collapse, the situation was worse, for there was frequently a period of weeks or months between the time when the tenant family was no longer provided for on the plantation and the time when they moved to Atlanta or some other city.

The cost to the city of the unem-

ployment, lack of skill and poor health of these rural refugees has been further augmented by their pessimism and passivity. Some had tried to buy land, had put their meager accumulations of years into it, only to lose it when the sale price of their farms fell below the figure they still owed on them. Others who had hoped to buy land saw the plight of their neighbors and decided there was no use even to try. By the time they migrated many of these disillusioned farm folk had decided to make no further effort to accumulate anything. They reached the cities fatalists of the first order.

## No Citizenship Background

These stranded rural refugees who migrated to the cities were costly, too, from the standpoint of citizenship. They had no tradition of participation. They had taken no active responsible part in community affairs. They were the inarticulate recipients of such public policy and private practices as had prevailed in the community. Often without "Sunday clothes" and seldom with money for the collection plate, many of these ex-tenant families had never been active in church. In the field of public education, the children of these tenants often had inadequate clothing and books. Sometimes they had been kept in the cotton fields by landlords, sometimes by their own fatalistic and inarticulate parents.

The educational opportunities, health facilities, and other public services in a community are closely related to the material resources of that community. The per capita taxable wealth of our largest cities is from three to five times that of the rural counties from which they draw their population. This fact, of itself, emphasizes the need for statewide and nation-wide educational and health and public welfare standards, not only for the benefit of those people who dwell in the poorer rural areas but also as a protection to the metropolitan communities whose population is recruited from these areas. Inarticulate people without hope are always costly to a community—costly in terms of low income and high expenditures, even more costly in terms of balked democracy and low morale.

Complicating the whole situation is the fact that for decades the city bedwellers have been buying farm products cheaply and selling the farm-made goods and town administered services dearly. This poor balance between urban and rural economy, not unrelated to the na-

Clearly, there are inescapable interdependence between urban and rural wage levels, between urban and rural standards of living, between urban and rural methods of community control. Intelligent urban leaders cannot ignore the economic conditions and the living standards of rural dwellers, except at great cost to themselves—for urban creditors can collect, only from solvent rural debtors, and metropolitan centers can replenish their population with healthy and hopeful rural migrants only when living conditions in farm communities have been vastly improved.

City dwellers can well afford to join their rural kinsfolk in helping our state and federal governments, and private agencies, launch programs which will conserve and restore our soil fertility and other natural resources, and which will afford opportunities for our people to achieve whatever they may in self-direction, in economic well-being, and in cultural development.



May 16, 1938

## FIGHTING CROP CONTROLS

Back in 1929, according to the United States News, a group of Iowa farmers, aroused by threat-ened loss of their farms through foreclosure of mortgages, threatened to lynch a judge who had decided that the farms must be sold. "Now a group of Illinois farmers, aroused over the very controls that were established by the government in an attempt to prevent a new sweep of deflation on the farms, are setting under way a plan of resistance to give the country its nearest approach to revolt in the depression that has followed 1937.

The flare-up of farmer sentiment in Illinois is reported spreading through the Corn Belt and into the Cotton Belt of the South. Congressmen are being told by their constituents that they are opposed to this most drastic venture of the government into crop control, and they are trying to get away from the movement by speeding the flow of subsidy cash. As everyone of course knows, the undertaking of the government to limit and control agriculture has caused the enlistment of an army of Federal agents to spy upon and force the farmers who do not approve of being told how to farm, and what to plant and how much and where (a considerable part of the farmers did not endorse the crop control law). These agents are now being rushed into the Corn Belt and the Wheat Belt to tell the farmers that they can "take it or leave it." But they cannot tell them that the farmers who do as they were told by Secretary Wallace, and President Roosevelt, that they will get special rewards and be considered entitled to support.

Senator Bailey, of North Carolina, has said: "The AAA is a perfect model of fascism, and of course everyone knows it. If we took the same act and applied it to the other activities of America, we should have fascism without question. It does not improve the character of the system to say that the farmers wanted it." The farmers likely did not want crop control. They were bull-dozed, cajoled, forced into approving of the control idea, and didn't like it the first time it was applied, but less now.

The News says that Congress listening to the howl in the case of cotton is loosening up with acreage allotments. In the Wheat Belt the growers are just beginning to think seriously about what may be ahead for them. In all the years of the AAA wheat farmers have been called upon to make adjustments in return for the subsidies that have come their way. The reason is that drouth has interfered consistently since 1932 to cut down crops and to bolster prices. "So Tom Johnson on his farm in the wheat country has been pleased to get his government checks, which served as an important measure of insurance against loss of his crop by weather and insects," the News suggests, "but now Farmer Johnson, like Farmer Smith in the Corn Belt, and Farmer Jones in the Cotton Belt, is beginning to wonder what lies ahead. His feelings are not yet being expressed in open complaint, like the others; the reason being

that real controls will not go into effect during 1938."

The News says that Henry A. Wallace and his aides in the AAA assert that they are not closing their eyes to the difficulties in the way of the new farm control act or to the complaints of corn growers, cotton growers and tobacco growers, with wheat growers, complaints ahead. Rather, their idea is that the Nation's farm problem is just beginning to close in again in a big way after a respite due largely to two successive record-breaking drouths.

## South's Farmers Turn To Lucrative Forestry

ATLANTA, May 15 (AP)—Planters in the land of cotton are turning to the pine tree business to boost their incomes.

Pointing to a shift from emphasis on cotton growing, State Forester Frank Heyward of Georgia said today private forestry in the South is experiencing a phenomenal growth.

"And why not?" he asked. "The Southern planter is learning he can plant pine trees off and forget them for a few years, and then harvest naval stores or wood for cellulose products like paper and rayon for communication poles, wharves, pilings, saw timber, cross ties and the like.

"Meanwhile, no watering, no fertilizing, no boll weevils to worry about and no plowing and very easy harvesting."

Heyward gave figures on a survey of 192 landowners representing 724,674 acres in 27 Georgia counties to emphasize his contention the private forest business is "booming." Of the total he said, 45 already were planters, 31 plan to plant trees next fall, and all expressed interest in some phase of forestry.

"The cellulose age is beginning," said Heyward, "Paper, containing board, plastics, rayon and other forms of processed wood appear destined to afford even further outlet for forest products than now exist."

With a little care and fire protection, the forester said, a farmer can figure on an annual income of from \$2 to \$4 an acre, under a conservative estimate, from his forest without any labor at all.

"And," he added, "there is another factor. These forests afford good grazing for beef cattle which in turn destroy combustible material, and they are great as game preserves—something else that can be figured in dollars and cents value to a section."

He pointed to the Thomasville Ga. winter resort section as an example. Game preserves mean good hunting and that brings visitors and more sources of money.

"The Southern farmer," Heyward said, "is definitely becoming a timber cropper. He has become so interested in it he is demanding forestry legislation and fire protection just as he has demanded plague funds in the past to protect his cotton." He said conditions favoring private forestry in the South were year

August 9, 1938

## MR. SANDERS SEES BASIC TRUTH.

Paul Sanders, chairman of the South Carolina state agricultural conservation committee, is taking a correct and strong stand against enforced reduction of the state's corn crop. In a recent letter to the AAA's director for the Southern division, he said: "Knowing the desperate need of this state for food crops for both animals and human beings, the information that I have seen on this corn reduction program has caused me a great deal of concern."

Mr. Sanders is referring to the possibility that South Carolina may be included in the official commercial corn area, and thus be subjected perhaps to curtailment of corn production. The corn belt states naturally wish to restrict production everywhere, if it is to be restricted within their borders. This attitude is easily understood. But South Carolina cannot afford any sacrifice in the interest of the better-off corn belt states.

"The emaciated condition of the average work stock of our average Negro share cropper and share tenant... is pitiful," continues Mr. Sanders. "Invariably when asked in regard to their own food supplies and as to feed for their work stock, they (the tenants) state that they have very little to eat for themselves and practically nothing for their mules other than what grass the mules can find..."

At the time it is needless to examine into the reasons for this condition, and futile to lay blame for it on the farmers themselves. South Carolina must consider the facts as they are, rather than explanations and causes; and strive toward improvement in food and feed yields.

"The officials of the department of agriculture," says Mr. Sanders in his letter—and we agree—"should, as an unchanging policy, exert every effort to encourage and urge the share croppers and tenants of this state to increase not only their acreage of corn and other food and feed crops, but should encourage and urge and provide means whereby our yield per acre may be increased."

That is fundamental thinking. The first goal for South Carolina farmers who are deep in poverty is more food and more feed. After reaching that goal of primitive plenty, perhaps more cash income will follow.

## Argentina To Use Cotton Pickers

NEW YORK, Aug. 12.—(AP)—The national cotton board of Argentina is recommending adoption of mechanical cotton picking to boost cotton production, the Argentine information bureau announced here today.

The board considers that a shortage of labor will soon be experienced in the cotton plantations and that picking machines will not lead to unemployment inasmuch as the soybean area will be greatly increased in zones where the production is relatively sparse, a cable received by the bureau said.

"It is pointed out by the cotton board that in the provinces of Santiago Del Estero and Corrientes, which have hitherto provided most of the labor, plantings have been extended, and a large proportion of the workmen have either become planters themselves or are exclusively employed in picking work in their own districts," the cable continued.

"When sowings reach about 1,500,000 acres, it is expected that the shortage of labor will become a problem, and that the mechanization of the harvest work would provide a solution. Tests with a modern mechanical picker at an experimental station at Roque Saenz Pena, in the Chaco region, were an outstanding success, demonstrating that the picker was admirably adapted to local conditions."







# Condition of

## Questions and Answers on Cotton Poll

## THE SOUTH TODAY

### "A Billion Dollar Utility"

By CHARLES E. BAUGHMAN

(Copyright, 1937, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—(P)—acreage allotment may be sold be divided among these farms. Here's a primer of questions and answers on the cotton poll.

Q. Will marketing quotas apply to all cotton?

A. Yes, except that they will not apply to cotton which was planted in either 1935, 1936 or 1937.

Q. How will the national allotment be divided?

A. The national allotment will be divided among the cotton producing states on the basis of the production in each state during the preceding five years, taking into account the acres diverted from cotton.

Q. How will the state allotments be divided?

A. Each state's allotment in his allotted acres, or the normal production in each county during the preceding five years, taking into account the acres diverted from cotton.

Q. What is the marketing quota of the individual farmer?

A. It is the cotton produced on the acres allotted to him, or the normal production in each county during the preceding five years, taking into account the acres diverted from cotton.

Q. Will the ballot be secret?

A. Yes.

Q. If two-thirds of the farmers in a county vote for a marketing quota, will they apply to all cotton?

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Editor's Note: Charles E. Baughman is former commissioner of markets and warehouses of Texas and author of a book, "Farm Accounting and Agricultural Economics." He is at present working on a new book, an agricultural atlas of Texas, one of the products of his many years experience in the cotton seed and cotton business.

A cotton outlook for the Southern cotton farmer is no new thing. Throughout the years, except in rare instances, he has failed to receive a parity price for his products. But he has succeeded in creating with little profit to himself, a billion-dollar cotton utility which has contributed greatly to the support of commerce and industry.

Recognition by the federal government of the farmer's disadvantageous position has come in recent years, and the new farm bill passed by congress is no doubt the most important step toward the elimination of the disparity between agriculture and other industries. But there is good reason to question the results to be obtained from the new program. Like most of the other proposed schemes for helping the farmer, it fails to take into account the actual costs of agricultural production and the relative value of commodities which the farmer must buy.

If a thing possesses a value, such as the value of other things. In primitive times, the farmer would trade a commodity produced on his own land for some other commodity produced on another man's land. Later, when money became a means of exchange, the merchant would give in exchange money; then he should be set aside to reimburse himself some of these products and determine the part of the price that would pass on to others; these commodities and they would give him a vestment. This cost may be arrived at by dividing the value of the commodity taken into general farming—that is, the final analysis, that system engaged in general farming—that is, the system of complete recognition of a parity price, a ratio price. Unfortunately, the system has been tampered with by forces outside the control of the individual farmer.

**Cost of Cotton Production**

In regard to cost of cotton production economists differ widely, some believing that cotton can be produced under normal conditions for as little as 5 cents per pound on certain types of land, others believing that the cost may run as high as 12 cents per pound, and even higher under abnormal conditions. Obviously, the actual production cost of a pound of cotton can be determined only if we determine the cost and cultivation programs. At least 2 of all utilities that enter into the

production of that pound of cotton. For this reason economists have come to give thought to the matter of parity price. Recently the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture was quoted as having stated that 16 cents was the parity price of cotton. That is to say, the cotton dollar and the dollar of the manufacturer concern would

burden the grower for his own labor. This would leave 7 cents to be distributed to the several utilities having a part in the cultivation of the cotton crop. When the cotton is ready for harvesting (picking), then additional utilities enter into the program, such as the work of the cotton picker, the ginner, the compress man and the transportation system, together with related industries such as mines, textile plants, printing plants and dozens of others. These add approximately 5 cents per pound to the cost, and the aggregate cost of a pound of cotton, delivered to the sheds of textile mills, is therefore 14 cents, if we omit from consideration the producer's own labor crop. When the cotton is ready for harvesting (picking), then additional utilities enter into the program, such as the work of the cotton picker, the ginner, the compress man and the transportation system, together with related industries such as mines, textile plants, printing plants and dozens of others. These add approximately 5 cents per pound to the cost, and the aggregate cost of a pound of cotton, delivered to the sheds of textile mills, is therefore 14 cents, if we omit from consideration the producer's own labor crop.

Twelve cents a pound means \$60 a bale. In other words, the utility of a bale of cotton, not including what the producer receives for his labor, amounts to \$60.

**Government Reductions Program**

Now let us suppose that the government proposed a reduction in the acreage of cotton to be planted next year only 25,000,000 acres to cotton, should be carried out under somewhat abnormal conditions and that the per-acre lint yield should be 114 pounds, a figure recorded once before. This would mean a national crop of 5,900,000 bales or just about 12,000,000 bales less than was produced in 1937. The result would be a loss of \$720,000,000 to the various and sundry utilities entering into this

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CHARLES E. BAUGHMAN



program, this loss actually obtaining is tyranny," and unconstitutional, regardless of the price the producer might receive for his pound of cotton.

Still we have not completely as- sible for this undemocratic, uncon- cessed the utility of a bale of cotton,stitutional law? Secretary Wal- The seed, which normally is produc- lace, indirectly (or his office bill ive of values approximating one-writers), but behind Secretary Wal- fourth of the value of the lint cotton lace, and directly responsible, must be taken into account. If we stands the man in the White House.

Did the landowners, the farm- ers know until they went to the polls that their vote was to be con- trolled—by the way they rented their land in 1937? Can the Sec- retary or the President, legally or constitutionally, force such a law on the people? If it were not a question of law—is not everyone entitled to know the "rules of the game" before it is played? Merely operations in other industries, help-good sportsmanship requires this.

At best, such a plan of "voting" is unequal. A small landowner's one vote is offset by from 8, 10 or 15. The large landowner and tax- payer's plight is far worse—his one vote having against him from one to several hundred votes. (This, if he is even allowed one vote!) Of course, this plan works excel- lently—for the dictator of agricul- ture and the officeholders, seeking to retain their jobs by the "votes of the masses," who are, for the most part, ignorant of the ques- tion involved and its far-reaching effect.

The writer has been told the way the Bankhead(?) farm bill was put over was even worse. The Secretary of Agriculture making it possible for every boy and girl living on a farm, white and black, 15 years old and over, to vote on the bill. If that is true, is it any wonder the bill was passed, 9 to 1?

Diversified farming, and re- building the soil are both greatly crease the size of each family's live of the land, and making grass, live- stock and timber work for them, the problem of low standards of liv- ing will still be with us. The pres- ent system of row crop farming, with intensive labor on a few acres, will not produce enough income to provide adequately for the man power it demands."

How closely related is this planned "Life Abundant," this so- called, "progressive democracy" (and the other administration re- form bills now pending) to consti- tutional democracy? Is it not more nearly akin to the German system and present Hitler procla- mations? Hitlerism or American- ism?

MARY CHALMERS HOOD. Florence, Ala.

At the present time, reckoning the value of a pound of cotton in terms of gold, the grower is receiving only approximately 5 cents per pound for his lint, or at least 2 cents per pound less than the utility cost of produc- tion, and is receiving nothing for his own labor.

Defects of Government Remedy

The intention of the new farm bill is, of course, to prevent disastrously low prices, but not only is it possible that the government's plan for the acreage reduction may result in a fatal decrease in production but it is also possible that the price per pound will continue to be less than the producer's cost. Without the allotment plan, whereby the grower would receive a subsidy derived from the collection of tariff revenues levied against the importation of manufac- tured goods, and without each grow- er's having the opportunity to pro- duce his share of domestic require- ments plus a surplus to enter the world market, we may anticipate an increase in foreign cotton acreage equal to our own reduction, and, after all, the grower next fall may find himself face to face with a world price for his products. This price could be as low as or lower than the price today.

For the reasons here pointed out, it seems essential that the workings of the new program should be sub- jected to the closest scrutiny during the coming months and that revisions in the plan should be attempted in advance of, not after, disastrous con- ditions have forced a change.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner

March 18, 1938

Cotton Control

To the Editor of THE BANNER:

"Cotton control again voted by farmers," so state the papers. How was this vote obtained? The cotton farmer and landowner rent- ing land for a stated rental in 1937 was not allowed a vote, on the quota. These, some of them the largest landowners and taxpay- ers, were yet denied the vote. Every white and Negro laborer could vote. (Figure out the intelli- gent voter.)

"Taxation without representation

## South Too Crowded for Land, Randall Says of Tenant Evils

By The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, April 10.—The gross farm income per capita in South, worried by its age-old land- Iowa was given as \$545 compared lord-tenant problems, has three to \$131 in Arkansas.

"The 12 Southern states have a to support with a decent standard farm income a little less than half of living, C. C. Randall, Arkansas that of the other 36 states," he said, assistant extension director, said "yet they must provide a living for a farm population that is two mil- lion greater than the total farm population in the other 36 states. The per capita farm income in the South is \$160—in the other states \$390.

"We are laboring over mere de- tails when we attempt to adjust landlord-tenant contracts, lengthen tenure of the tenant, or even to achieve farm ownership in the be- lief that we are striking at the heart of poverty among our farm people," Mr. Randall said.

"Actually, the real, fundamental problem facing landowners and tenants alike is that we are trying to make one acre do the work of three."

Pointing out that the Southern landowner in recent years has been the target of national criticism which stirred class feeling and started some radical reform move- ments, Mr. Randall said "the sys- tem still stands, standards of liv- ing have not been raised material-ly because it is useless to quibble about how to divide the profits when there are not enough profits to go around."

The Extension Service leader, taking Arkansas as an example, said there were only two ways to raise the standard of living of the state's farms. One, through higher prices for farm products, he said it was unlikely of achievement in the light of economic history.

"The only other way is to in- crease the size of each family's live of the land, and making grass, live- stock and timber work for them, the problem of low standards of liv- ing will still be with us. The pres- ent system of row crop farming, with intensive labor on a few acres, will not produce enough income to provide adequately for the man power it demands."

"Until Southern farmers get to the point where they are using more land, and making grass, live- stock and timber work for them, the problem of low standards of liv- ing will still be with us. The pres- ent system of row crop farming, with intensive labor on a few acres, will not produce enough income to provide adequately for the man power it demands."

Mr. Randall pointed out the con- trast between the farmers of the South and those of the North and West. He said Arkansas has a ru- ral population of 1,180,000 persons trying to earn a living on 10,500,000 acres of open farm land, an aver- age of nine acres to each person, while Iowa, regarded as a prosper- ous agricultural state, has 28 acres of cultivated farm land to support each farm person. The annual

## One Crop System Is Blamed For South's Economic Ills

work for them, the problem of low standards of living will still be easier for tenants to acquire with us. The present system of farms will not solve the landlord-row crop farming, with intensive labor on a few acres, will not pro- duce enough income to provide adequately for the manpower it de- mands.

"But even if we used every acre of agricultural land in the state, economically unsound and the only way to create better con- ditions for either tenant or land- owner is through a change in the system, he said.

"Too many people are trying to offer a solution. . . . The funda- mental need of the South is the redistribution of the farming popu- lation and the reconstruction of the farming system. Landowners and tenants alike must face the common problem of increasing the size of the individual family's farm- land, and must face the fact that the South's one-crop sys- tem, or they must resign them- selves to continued low incomes and standards of living in the South."

"We are laboring over mere de- tails when we attempt to adjust landlord-tenant contracts, lengthening business, and must face the tenure of the tenant in the belief that we are striking at the heart of the problem of poverty among our farm people. The fundamental problem facing landowners and tenants is that we are trying to make one acre do the work of three."

In Arkansas, according to Mr. Randall, there are only nine culti- vated acres per capita of farming population, compared with 28 acres per capita in Iowa. In Iowa, too, the annual gross farm income per capita of farm population is \$545, while it is only \$131 in Arkansas. Higher farm prices would help, but could not solve the problem entire- ly, says the author.

Inferentially, Mr. Randall recom- mends more machines and less hand labor in Southern farming when he writes: "Until Southern farmers get to the point where they are using more land, and making grass, livestock and timber



# Wallace Urges That Farming Be Kept Main Job Of Race In South

## Golden Jubilee Of YMCA Ends In Washington

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — The 50th anniversary of the colored branch of the Young Men's Christian Association was brought to a fitting close with a largely attended meeting in the Franklin Memorial chapel, Howard university, when Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, spoke.

Secretary Wallace said that the Nation's No. 1 problem in the South can be solved in no less than a generation of time, and that the quicker it is realized, the better it will be. He added that there is no possible way to give good land to the people of the South in a shorter time. It is the secretary's hope that leaders in association work will encourage members to be kept occupied in agriculture in the South.

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, director of the colored division of the NYA, brought greetings from the wives and mothers of the men and boys who have felt the influence of "Y" work. John E. Manley, general secretary of the national council, spoke of the work of the international association during the past 50 years.

The opening session was addressed by Dr. Robert R. Moton, president emeritus of Tuskegee institute, Dr. Emmett J. Scott, presiding. Dr. Channing Tobias read a letter from President Roosevelt, in which the president sent hearty felicitations and warmest personal greetings to all who took part in the conference.

Dr. Howard H. Long, assistant superintendent of schools, and Ralph Bullock, of the association national council, addressed the conference. Mr. Bullock made a report of a study of the association

which served as a basis for planning future work.

At one of the sessions, panel discussions were led by Paul R. Williams of Los Angeles; C. Sylvester Jackson of Harrisburg, Pa.; Robert DeFrantz of New York; Horace S. Sudduth of Cincinnati; Henry K. Craft of Montclair, N. J.; Joseph H. B. Evans, Walker L. Savoy and Campbell C. Johnson. Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, president of the Howard, welcomed the delegates, which included more than a score of college and university presidents.

## Farm Loans Increased Among Negro Farmers

WASHINGTON, — (ANP) — Negro application for tenant purchase loans made to the Farm Security Administration has increased 12.5 percent this year over those for 1937. As of Sept. 27, applications were received for 1938 loans from 64,267 white and 24,544 Negro tenant farmers in 18 Southern states. Negro applicants represented 37.5 percent of the total number against last year's figure, 5,089, or 25 percent of the total.

## FSA Makes Loans for Medical Care

### Plans Worked Out In Cooperation With Medical Societies

ACTING on the principle that a family in good health is a better risk than a family in poor health, the Farm Security Administration has put through plans looking toward complete medical coverage for all its borrowers. "Quite aside from any humanitarian purposes, it has as a lending agency," said Dr. W. W. Alexander, Administrator, "found that a family in good health is a better credit risk than a family in bad health."

Plans for medical care and hospitalization at nominal cost to low income farm families who have been without this service, were worked out by the Farm Security Administration through cooperation with physicians and established medical societies.

The first step is an agreement with the state medical societies outlining general principles acceptable to both. Next, medical societies in areas where need seems greatest are approached and the details of a local medical care plan for borrowers are worked out. In the past, families from this group have been a large part of the tremendous burden shouldered by doctors without pay.

### 18 STATES AFFECTED

In co-operation with medical societies, the Farm Security Administration already has brought 60,000 low income farm families in 18 states within the plan and they are now being given medical care at a cost they can afford. The administration found it necessary to help provide such care in the course of its efforts to rehabilitate more than 600,000 low income farm families, many of relief levels.

Annual cost to member families is between \$12 and \$30 a year,

advanced in the loan by FSA. This provides for annual physical examination, needed home and office visits, and in most cases, drugs and hospitalization. Physicians submit monthly bills for services rendered. In general, if total bills exceed the amount available for a given month, physicians are paid their pro-rata part of the month's allotment.

Bills are paid in full when the allotment is adequate. If a balance remains, it is carried over to the next month, or to the end of the period. Any surplus left at the end of a year may be returned to the family.

### ASSURED PAYMENT

Since these families have net incomes of only \$20 to \$300 a year, what medical care they had was largely without any compensation to the doctors who helped them. Under this plan, the physician will be assured of payment up to the limit of the ability of the ordinary borrower to pay. One southern county with 300 FSA farm families, paid 73 per cent of the total monthly doctors' bills presented from January to September.

County plans are in operation in 56 of the 75 counties in Arkansas, in 13 counties in Missouri, 12 in Mississippi, nine in Texas, five each in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Ohio, four in Tennessee, three in Indiana and Oklahoma, two in Virginia, and one in Iowa. Agreements have been reached with state medical societies in seven other states.

farmers have purchased 16 mowers, 15 hay rakes, 11 pressure cookers, 13 grain drills, five boars, four bulls, two purebred stallions, six corn planters, six cultivators, 6 sets of harness, two disc plows, two orchard sprayers, two wagons, two turn plows, two disc harrows, one spike harrow, one springtooth harrow, one hay rack, one washing machine, one jack, one harvester combine, one tractor, one dry dust mill, one sorghum mill and one wheat bind.

Community Services of FSA Aids Farmers

All types of farm equipment, from washing machines to harvesters, are being bought in increasing volume by the small farmers of Virginia with the aid of the community service loans of the Farm Security Administration, according to George S. Mitchell, FSA regional director.

Under the community service plan, 54 farmers in this state have borrowed \$7,016 since March 31. These loans made to a "master borrower" for the benefit of the community directly benefit 367 neighboring farmers. Besides the farm equipment, much of this money has

gone for the purchase of pure-bred stallions, boars and breeding stock on Virginia farms. In addition to individual loans to "Master borrowers," 12 associations have been made to co-finance loans ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,500 have been made to cooperative service centers in Virginia. Through these loans 2,320 FSA farmers have been able to purchase terracing machines and chaser equipment, hammer mills, orchard sprayers, woodshop and blacksmith shop equipment, potato warehouses and other equipment which will increase their efficiency and supplement their income. During the last six months these



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# Letters To The Editor

## THE LITTLE MAN AND HIS COTTON

Editor, The Advertiser:

I have watched with interest the articles pro and con of AAA Cotton Control in your paper of recent dates. I see in the morning papers that Secretary Wallace will speak in Macon, Ga., this week in favor of the renewal of this crop control law, and I see also in the A.P. report from Washington today that Senator Bankhead has reported to President Roosevelt that 95 per cent of the farmers of the South will vote for this law to continue to control cotton.

I recently saw where Senator Bankhead had told the farmers that they were much better off financially than they were in 1933. I do not know where Mr. Bankhead secured this information. It must have been from the county agents of the various counties, who of course wish this law to continue because it gives them nice fat salaries, their wives, sons, daughters and in-laws positions where all of them can get on the payrolls under their political influences. It is verily the "Golden Age" for the Extension Department in every State in the farming sections. Of course these men without exception are whooping it up for the renewal of their gravy train on which their whole families are riding including grandpa in some instances. I have been told

It is a shame that President Roosevelt is being told things that are not true by his trusted advisers, even though they may be ignorant of real conditions and be perfectly sincere in their conclusions, but anyone can see that President Roosevelt will be led woefully astray in his plans for corrections of ill-advised and impractical schemes to better the conditions now facing agriculture in every section of America if he follows this advice.

I am still firmly convinced that President Roosevelt is sincerely trying to make the New Deal better with living conditions for all including the long "forgotten man," the share cropper, the underprivileged men of both races, white and colored improved. If Senator Bankhead would go to the physicians in every county in Alabama and ask them what they found existed today in the farm homes of our State, he would get a report that would open his eyes to what really faced these desperate men and women under the manipulations of the Wallace dominated boards from Washington through Auburn to each county seat in Alabama.

A large majority of the farmers in this State have not made enough cotton at the present price to pay their fertilizer bills, leaving nothing whatsoever for winter clothes, shoes and Christmas toys and debts. The cotton loan value of cotton this year was deliberately placed below the price of cotton, while the loan price on wheat was placed above the market price. Was it politics? If so it failed for the New Deal took the beating of its young life all over the wheat belt, defeating Senator McGill, co-author of the AAA crop control law. Does that look like 95 per cent of the wheat farmers are satisfied with this control law?

You can fool some of the people all the time but you cannot fool all the farmers all the time and they are waking up and doing some thinking for themselves. If the farmers of the South are well advised by the newspapers and leaders who ought to have sense enough to see that the South is being sold "down the river" by Wallace and if the "count of ballots" is counted as cast, I believe nearer 95 per cent of the small farmers will vote against this cotton plan. Of course there is no way to tell whether the count will be correct.

Seriously it is my mature belief that the farmers of the South except the larger plantation owners,

who have an opportunity to manipulate checks, cotton allotments, etc., are in much worse shape than they have ever been since the War Between the States. There is no way for them to make money enough to pay a ten dollar debt. My collections have been worse this Fall than in the 27 years I have practiced in Russell County as a physician. The farmers and their wives are completely broken in spirit as well as cash. A farmer here was given an allotment of 1.2 acres for cotton when he had a wife and six little children to support. He planted 2.5 acres and did not make enough on his farm to make a decent mattress but he was ordered to plow up 1.3 acres.

Of course Senator Bankhead would have some difficulty in making this farmer and his wife and hungry children believe that they are much "better off." This farmer is face to face with starvation and the W. P. A. emergency relief in this county is in the hands of the politicians and a farmer without a vote or a white friend gets very little relief of any kind. The Washington politicians apparently believe that a cotton farmer in the South is kin to a "bear" and can go into "hibernation" until they can raise another crop.

I have a picture that shows thousands of bales of cotton being allowed to enter this country through Matamoros absolutely duty free.

Does it make good sense to you, to attempt to limit cotton production in this country and do this? The cotton farmers have been trying for the past 50 years to get jute placed on the tariff list.

Who has prevented it from being taxed? If all jute was taxed high enough to prevent its competition with cotton, and all crocus sacks were changed into cotton for this country alone it would consume possibly a million bales. Why does not Secretary Wallace do this? He could have had it done if he had advised President Roosevelt to have done so.

R. B. MCANN, M. D.

Seale, Ala., Nov. 16, 1938.

\* \* \* \*

## PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

Editor, The Advertiser:

When the United States reaches the point that she can exchange a million bales of surplus raw cotton with a foreign nation for its equivalent in finished goods without having to worry about cutting down the production of similar finished goods in home manufacturing plants, our great nation will have solved its consumption problem and will be able to raise the standards of living in our nation without the use of artificial means.

No practical way is at work in our Nation for balancing consumption with production, except by building new public buildings and paved roads, both of which are non-taxable, and depending on the wearing out process to induce the workers so employed in such work projects, who receive the funds so spent for labor, to replace goods they have been using with new merchandise.

Our Government has been and is working on the theory that the only trouble with business today is labor does not have the buying power to replace and replenish with new goods, articles they need. If given such buying power our manufacturing plants will once again be able to operate on full time and soon pay back the money spent in trying to produce such new business.

Our wage and hour law is a step in the same direction. The question is will it work out in actual practice, as it's not the amount that a worker receives that really counts, it's what can he buy with an eight-hour day's work.

Germany is now using as an excuse, the death of one of her officials at the hands of a desperate

Jew, as a means for raising funds to help pay for some of her war operations. Using such an excuse to attract innocent people is contemptible.

Needing public funds and the German people as a whole being fed up on the spending program in Germany has resulted in this act.

Our Government has spent and is spending public money that is not being raised at the present time even though such spending is supposed to result in enough new business to justify the expense. Each year we are assured that business will once again be able to absorb our unemployed, yet such statements fail to materialize.

Our Government hesitates to take any steps to induce the consumption of finished goods by the buying public who have funds of their own to buy with. Until this is done and our Federal Government realizes that we have got to balance consumption with production, we will never balance our Federal budget. It's impossible for business to absorb the unemployed when business can hardly keep those on their payrolls who they now have employed. A trade-in plan to induce buying by those able to buy will do the trick.

Autaugaville, Ala.

E. H. PEARSON.



Agriculture-1938.

Condition of

## ONE WORD MORE

By RALPH MCGILL.

### It Was On The President's Special Train

to Barnesville on the historic August 11, that I managed to have a brief talk with Harry Hopkins, WPA administrator.

There had developed in Georgia and the south, some opposition to the administrator's plan to place farmers on relief during the winter months. The opposition was based on the assertion the relief plan would break down what little had been accomplished toward getting the farmers away from the one-crop system. The argument was there would be no incentive on the part of a farmer to get away from the one-crop gamble if he knew he were to be placed on the relief rolls in the winter.

Hopkins was not feeling well and he looked a bit pained.

"In the first place," he said, "there never has been any idea of putting actual farmers on the WPA rolls in the winter season."

"It never was meant to apply to any but the tenants and the share-croppers. They aren't independent. They are told what to grow and what to plant. The plan can't possibly break down their initiative because they aren't on their own but work for someone who tells them what to farm."

"That isn't the important feature. What is the average income of Georgia tenants and croppers?"

"About \$150 or less per year."

"Well, suppose they are placed on the WPA rolls in the winter for a period of about 30 days. That is all that was contemplated. We hope to add, say, about \$50 a year to their cash income. What do you think about that?"

"It would add much to the state income and ought to mean much in the way of an improved standard of living. The increase of an income by about one-third is an important one."

"Well, that's what we thought. It is an experiment. It is not meant to be permanent. It is a plan we may change. But we did think something ought to be done for the cropper and the tenant so that he would have an opportunity to earn more cash."

### In Georgia,

In Georgia, for instance, it is es-

**For Instance,** It is my opinion that 10 years ago there were few schools really available for rural children. The generation of today is, in many counties, the product of that lack of schooling.

**There Are—** It is my opinion that 10 years ago there were few schools really available for rural children. The generation of today is, in many counties, the product of that lack of schooling.

**The Report** It is possible there will be some resentment about the report on southern economic conditions. This will be of the bureau, is not complete and was only a preliminary survey which can do no more than indicate trends.

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**Conditions** The survey, explains the director of the bureau, is not complete and was only a preliminary survey which can do no more than indicate trends.

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General

## More Farmers Move Down Ladder Than During 1920

(Special to Journal and Guide)

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Since 1920, the proportion of farmers who have climbed the farm ladder, represented by the three stages—farm-hand, farm-tenant, and farm owner, has decreased while the percentage of farmers who have gone down the ladder in the same period of every ten reported farm hand experience. The total number of tenants who reported farm hand experience was exceeded by the number of owner operators who reported such experience. In each case the average time spent as a farm hand was approximately six years.

The survey, explains the director of the bureau, is not complete and was only a preliminary survey which can do no more than indicate trends.

Three thousand farms in 40 states were used in the survey. Those assisted in the project included the Bureau of Census, the Department of Commerce and the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates.

The section of the country found to show the most disappointing trends was the deep South where many farmers have fallen from the farm owner class into the farm tenant class and where some have even drifted down to the bottom rung of the farm ladder, the farm hand class.

But more than the fall from the top down, the trend in the South indicates that it is more difficult to climb up the ladder than in other sections.

**MANY LOSE FARMS** The survey found that the depression, the boll weevil, the drought and other financial and natural disturbances had been responsible for the loss of many farms by owners but is also discovered that a large number of farmers have lost their farms because of bad management or other causes not attributable to natural or economic phenomenon.

One tenant out of every eight included in the survey had at one time been farm owners, the report shows.

However, the survey reveals that the proportion of those who have improved their status is considerably higher than the proportion of tenants who once owned their own farms.

One half of the owner operators interviewed reported experience either as a farm tenant or as farm hand. The group having experience as tenants was nearly equal to that reporting experience

as a farm hand. Of those owner operators with farm hand experience about one half also had tenant experience. Owners who once were tenants had an average of about nine years experience as tenants and about 16 years as owner.

### FARM HAND EXPERIENCE

Approximately three tenants out of every ten reported farm hand experience. The total number of tenants who reported farm hand experience was exceeded by the number of owner operators who reported such experience. In each case the average time spent as a farm hand was approximately six years.

### BLACK TOILERS

Negro workmen join hands today with other millions of their fellows in the struggle to build a world in which all men shall be free to toil and receive a just compensation.

In the early days of the Republic the black toilers constituted the foundation of the American labor system. The tobacco, rice, cotton and corn were made by Negroes. They drained the swamps and built the railroads. Today the picture has changed. In many instances Negro toilers are discriminated against and exploited. In spite of our enlightened civilization peonage and virtual slavery exist in certain sections. Several jobs which were long held by Negroes have passed out of their hands.

No problem which this minority group faces is more serious than that of work. By degrees Negroes must organize capital, and produce things which the people need. In the meantime employment will be given to the ever increasing army of young people who are being graduated from educational institutions

yearly. Toilers, white and black they will unite and present a solid front. God ordains that toilers will ultimately realize their common interests. Prejudice fostered by scheming politicians will become a thing of the past and

wherever be free.

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# Johnson

Wallace Insists On  
Keeping Control  
Of Farms



By Hugh S. Johnson

BETHANY BEACH, Del., Sept. 1.—Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace, has complained that this column is unfair to him. He wants it censored for accuracy. The secretary himself can censor it for accuracy. If his people call my attention to any inaccurate statements of fact, I will correct them immediately. But who is going to censor the secretary for accuracy?

High finance has seen few equals to his adroitness in so revising and recasting the estimates of the corn crop, supply and consumption that he escaped the requirement of the law to put corn-croppers under a quota system. It was a bare-faced figure-juggling.

Mr. Wallace almost immediately burst forth with a plan to buy vast quantities of wheat at an artificial American price, jimmied or attempted to be jimmied by Mr. Wallace, above the world price. Then he will sell this surplus in export at the much lower world price—and charge the loss to the Treasury. This is precisely the reverse of the gospel Mr. Wallace has for years preached. He promised the farmers much higher prices than they are getting. But it wasn't going to be done this way. He condemned his method as "dumping." He was to do it by controlling farm production.

## Tried Every Trick

He has had five years to do it. He has tried every trick in the bag to avoid surplus, killed baby pigs and pigs unborn, destroyed corn and cotton by plowing under, bought tons of everything from eggs to oranges and given them away. He has maintained artificial domestic farm prices, not high enough to give farmers their promised price "parity," but high enough to prevent exports and give their competitors abroad large chunks of their export markets for wheat, cotton and animal fats—forever. He hasn't reduced the unmanageable surplus which is at the root of the problem. Now, in political desperation he juggles the figures to avoid trying his own medicine on corn, and instead of giving purchased surplus wheat to our destitute, he proposes to subsidize a lower price for it to foreigners out of our Treasury.

Agricultural prosperity, which means industrial prosperity, can't be maintained on world farm prices. That's certain. No non-farmer ever kicked on paying for dollar wheat, ten-cent cotton, six-bit corn. If the price in a free market fell below that, or below whatever figure above that is "parity"—it wouldn't be much greater—then there would be no important consumer opposition in this country to an excise tax on all we use, sufficient to pay those prices to farmers without any attempt to restrict farm production or regiment any farmer.

## Takes Away Control

Of course, there could be no argument for

paying that tax and maintaining that price on what agriculture chose to produce above domestic needs for sale to export. The price in our markets on export crops would be, as always, the competitive world price. If we consume 600,000,000 bushels of wheat and the farmers raise 900,000,000 bushels, they would get a guaranteed \$1 a bushel on two-thirds of their crop and the lower competitive price in a free world market for the rest.

That would maintain their price stability and security and their economic and political freedom. It would preserve to them their export markets for any surplus and the volume advantage of all bumper crops. What's the matter with that? Principally that it has no element of political control of agriculture by Mr. Wallace.

## Retrogression

A recent survey made by the Bureau of Census, United States Department of Commerce, indicates a discouraging trend. The bureau finds, in interviews with 3,000 farmers in selected counties in forty of the forty-eight states, that a larger percentage of farmers have moved down the farm ladder from owner to tenant to farmhand in recent years than prior to the census of 1920.

At the same time, the percentage of farmers who have climbed up the ladder—advanced from farmhand to tenant to owner has increased. The report did not contain a racial breakdown of statistics.

However, the percentage who have improved their status, as shown in the 1938 report, is much greater than the percentage showing a recession in status. Of the 3,000 farmers, 41.4 percent show improvement, 53.2 percent show no change, and 5.4 percent show recession in status.

The difference between these figures and the figures in 1920 is slight but nevertheless disturbing. Any trend that shows retrogression in the past 18 years is disturbing, no matter what the reasons. In that time the nation and particularly its agricultural sections have suffered a depression, a more recent recession, droughts, floods, the boll weevil menace, and other natural and economic phenomena. Then, too, lots of people have just failed to hold their farms like other business men fail to hold their firms together because of faulty management or disaster of one kind or another.

However, despite these reasons

the trend has been distressing and has very likely inspired the Department of Agriculture and the United States government to seek ways and means of helping the farmer to recoup his losses, to pave the way for good, hard working farmers to climb up the ladder, instead of slipping down.

It is to be hoped that by some expediency the farmer's plight is relieved and the nation's food sources are protected.

## Southern Farms Praised For Chemurgy Possibilities

From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 10.—Farm chemurgy possibilities are better in the South than in any other section, Dr. H. E. Barnard, of the National Farm Chemurgy Council of New York, said here today at a luncheon tendered editors and industrialists by officials of the Free State Fair.

Dr. Barnard pointed to the starch factory at Laurel where he said superior starch is being made from the sweet potato.

He also predicted that the tung oil industry in South Mississippi would establish paint and varnish industries in this section.

"I am convinced that the tung oil industry in this state will become really a great industry," he said.

"I believe the crop this year further has been estimated to produce some 3,000,000 pounds of tung oil. We import annually 125,000,000 order that \$586,000 of impounded funds be turned over to livestock commission men at Kansas City.

The money represents the difference between rates fixed by Secretary Wallace and higher ones actually charged by the commission men. It was impounded during litigation which resulted in Mr. Wallace's rate-fixing order being declared invalid by the Supreme Court. Now the secretary is trying to have the money returned to farmers.

Denied reviews of state court convictions of Anna Marie Hahn, under sentence of death for murder at Cincinnati, Ohio, and of Charles (Lucky) Luciano and five others for operation of a vice ring at New York.

## Senator Lee to Ask Revision of Faulty Agricultural Bill

NORMAN, Okla.—Senator Josh Lee (D., Okla.) was scheduled to arrive in Washington this week for a conference with President Roosevelt on a revision of the

present Agriculture Bill, and farm legislation which he expects to introduce when the next session of congress convenes in January.

Lee opposed the 1938 Farm Bill because of the compulsory features, but finally voted for the measure on the basis that it was the "best obtainable" during the last session.

The Lee Domestic Allotment Bill, which the Senator introduced last year, would remove all limitations on production and, at the same time, insure the farmer the cost of production on that part of his crop raised for domestic consumption. The rest would be sold at current world prices.

Senator Lee also expects to talk further with the President concerning his Farm Tenant Bill designed to make possible a "farm for every farmer." The President has already given tentative approval to Lee's Farm Bill which would make possible government guarantees on private farm loans, thus, enabling farm tenants to purchase their own farms on a "low interest rate, long term plan" similar to that now in effect on homes through the Federal Housing Administration.

A heavy speaking schedule, which will take him into every section of Oklahoma in behalf of the Democratic fall campaign, will face the Senator when he returns to Oklahoma the latter part of this month. He will remain here until the next session of Congress convenes in January.



# COMER ASSAILS 'WAR' UPON SOUTH

## Textile Magnate Declares Industry Needs More Needs U. S. Co-operation

Southern industry wants and needs more co-operation from Washington, Donald Comer, Birmingham textile industrialist, declared last night as he attacked unfair discriminations against the south in an address before the Institute of Citizenship at Georgia Tech.

Protection of the cotton market by a tariff on jute, lowering of freight rates, and abolition of the tax on retained profits would greatly benefit this section, the speaker said.

"The south is asking for a fair chance for some industrial development," he asserted. "She only wants some reasonable protection for a start. When the agricultural north decided on an industrial development they erected a tariff wall against older industrial Europe. The agricultural south and west can't erect a tariff wall against the older industrial east."

**Government Scored.**  
Comer said the same government that has concerned itself with a fair price for cotton fails to show a proper appreciation of cotton's unfair competition from competing fibers.

Declaring that Senators George and Russell "have fought valiantly against this injustice," the industrialist said "your senators and ours of Alabama wanted to put into the present farm bill a quota allowance for jute," but added "they couldn't even get a start."

"Every farm product is fairly protected by tariff, not only against its own kind but against substitutes, except cotton which is grown from Virginia to Texas,"

he continued.

"India has increased both her acreage and her crops of cotton and jute, and as a result India has taken away from American cotton some of our foreign customers and our rightful customers for cotton strings, bags and wrappings."

**Refused Jute Tariff.**  
"When our California and Arizona farmers decided to raise long-staple cotton they asked for a seven-cent per pound tariff against Egyptian long-staple cotton, and yet when our cotton asks for protection against jute—its worst competitor—we find the senators from New York and Idaho and Washington effectively leading a smothering opposition."

The amendment by Congressman Boileau, of Wisconsin, to the recent farm bill denying southern farmers the right to grow dairy animal, or food products on lands taken out of cotton, Comer characterized as unfair to the south.

"With an internal tax against our oleomargarine with a high tariff tax against imports of foreign butter and cheese, with India jute on the free list, now comes Congressman Boileau to tell us that we cannot take one more acre out of cotton and raise on it eggs or chickens, milk, butter or cheese, beef or pork for sale even within our own section," he declared.

**Reciprocity Urged.**  
"If we are going to continue to buy sugar from Idaho beets, is it unreasonable that Idaho sack her potatoes in cotton instead of bur-lap?" Comer asked. "If we are going to buy Wisconsin and New York butter and cheese and our flour from western wheat, is it too much to ask that they use cotton instead of jute bags?"

Industry and agriculture must go hand in hand, although the south might follow the example of Denmark and work out her own economic happiness without resort to industry, Comer insisted.

"Denmark is highly agricultural and at the same time highly literate, and is a constant example to the world of a successful agricultural state. It can be done," he emphasized.

"Our great need today in this agricultural south is for industry to make not only some things to ship outside of our section but to make at home more of the things our own people need, and to furnish a near-by industrial wage to

buy the things our farmers grow.

"I have always said that industry must not come with the purpose of exploitation, that unless it comes prepared to take a constructive part in this program, it had better not come at all. Our section can better afford to remain agricultural than to undergo industrial exploitation with all its attendant evils."

The industrialist said southern farm interests appreciate every helping effort from the national government, but added "we feel the need of co-ordinated effort."

"In asking for a place in the crowded cities of the east for some of our cheaper things—iron pipe, staple cotton goods—we are not asking that section to dig us out an easy road, but we do object to the Interstate Commerce Commission actually putting unfair freight rate barriers in our way," he asserted.

"We feel that under whatever favoring condition industry develops in the south it can only start with staple things. It will have to start with the handicap of being farthest away from the populous markets."

Citing a specific instance of opposition in Washington, Comer said that in a recent hearing for the purpose of establishing a quota limit on jute, three governmental departments appeared in opposition—the state, agricultural and labor departments, "from whom cotton farmers and textile workers have every right to expect all possible help."

**"Too Much Making."**

"Japan says today that her armies are in China for the purpose of making China like her," he said. "There is still too much of that philosophy abroad that wants to make people do things instead of making them want to do things. It should be recognized that the great majority want to do things right and these doers should have the larger part in working out a program."

"Along this line and in connection with the undistributed profits tax I urged Senator Black that instead of taxing retained profits, to encourage a reasonable retention, as a result of a voluntary bonus to employees."

"In our own business, that of preparing cotton for the consumer, we are asking only a clear right-of-way. There are a very few who crash the red light; the 90 per cent respect the law of the lights, but when the green light comes we know that we have the

right-of-way and the road is clear, not subject to change or caprice.

"The few who crash the red light must be disciplined, but I question the philosophy that lays too much emphasis on making these few conform."

## In Washington

With

GEORGE MORRIS

## Sharecroppers Needed?

WASHINGTON, March 8. — By way of illustration, the President, the other day at a press conference, referred to a conversation with a critic who frankly admitted he didn't know what to suggest as a solution for the sharecropper problem, with which the Administration is deeply concerned.

It has become a habit for Washington officials from the White House down to refer to the sharecropper as the most unfortunate and pathetic of all God's children. When they want to describe peonage, persecution, oppression and all that is helpless, defenseless and friendless on the one hand, and all that is oppressive, cruel and depraved on the other, they speak of the sharecropper and the landlord. They have imagined the situation for so long that it has become reality.

There is a way to correct the opinion. Those who feel that way rejoice in their colossal ignorance. If the correctness of their conviction is questioned they bring to the support of their conclusions the opinions of others who are as ignorant as they are. They are satisfied with the logic that the opinion of two ignorant persons is worth more than that of one who knows.

A YEAR AGO the Congress appropriated \$1,400,000,000 for relief of the destitute. It wasn't enough to finish the year on. The Congress generously appropriated another \$250,000,000 with which to carry on until July. The recent census of unemployed revealed that there are X millions. One guess is as good as another as to what X means. It is, however, apparent that the number is on the increase.

There is also this fact, which is apparent. There are no sharecroppers legitimately on relief. At this season of the year no person on a farm should be on relief. Therefore, we have the situation of millions on relief, none of whom are sharecroppers. It seems that one answer to the problem would be to create more sharecroppers.

Some years ago when the cities were confronted with the problem of handling their own relief bur-

dens, and naturally were genuinely interested in them, it was disclosed that a large number had abandoned farm work in the country to go to the cities and go on relief. An attempt was made to segregate unemployed industrial workers without farm experience from unemployed in cities without industrial experience. The object was to send the destitute farm workers back to the farm, and take care of the unemployed industrial workers as best the community could.

About the time they were making headway the Government took a hand. No question was asked as to previous experience or habitation. The fact that people were in need was sufficient. The relief agencies could take no other attitude toward the former farm workers who had fled to the city to escape toil, because there were many thousands of industrial workers who were on strike and otherwise voluntarily unemployed.

The Government could not afford to ask why persons were in need. Too many would have made it evident that they were in need because they did not want to work.

THAT ATTITUDE encouraged other sharecroppers to go to the city. Farms were depleted of labor. Landowners were forced to resort to expensive machinery to take the place of man power. They were able to take up the slack in that way in cultivating crops, but there was still need of workers, particularly as cotton pickers.

But those who escaped the hardships of sharecropping were content with the life of ease provided by the relief rolls. They could not refuse to work but were able to achieve the same result by placing a price on the value of their labor above the ability of the landowners to pay. Today the landowner is faced with the problem of making his tenant comfortable, happy and secure. The landowner has a strong competitor in the relief agency.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT actually accomplished was to raise wages to the point where the profit margin was so narrow that a slight decrease in demand was followed by immediate reduction in the number of workers. There was slight opportunity for industrial recruits from the farm in flush times, and none when business was slack.

Forty-five cents out of every taxpayer's dollar goes for relief, which does not include the increased price of the things he is compelled to buy as a result of curtailed production. High wages slackens buying, curtails production, increases unemployment and relief expenditures.

Yet, in the face of this situation many feel that they are contributing something to the solution of the economic situation by letting their hearts bleed for the sharecropper, the only member of the unskilled group who is not on relief.



March 11, 1938

**A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT**

When the cotton farmers go to the polls tomorrow negroes will march alongside the white farmers to cast their ballots on the cotton quotas.

Most of the negroes will be taken to the polls by plantation owners and will vote as instructed, but the entire procedure is setting up a dangerous precedent, if white political supremacy is to be maintained in the south.

The plebiscite is governed by regulations laid down by the federal government. It has not been so many years ago that the southern people found federal bayonets at the polls to insure negro voting. The scene has changed but only in degree. In the present day it is government dollars instead of government bayonets that are bringing the negro back to the voting booth.

It maybe that the negro votes will be used to aid the cotton producer, but it will be air purchased at a terrific price.

For years the negro has forgotten what voting means, but the farm program elections are arousing a vote consciousness that sooner or later under an irresponsible leadership to which the negro is peculiarly susceptible, and the urging of northern politicians, will make for serious trouble in the southern states.

The anti-lynching bill recently shelved by a southern filibuster demonstrates that the old ideas which gave rise to the series of laws affecting suffrage following the close of the Civil War, are still extant in the north.

A vote conscious negro population in the south may mean a revival of the attempts in congress to force political equality upon the southern states.

**MORE OUTSIDE COTTON COMPETITION**

More and more other countries—Brazil, Argentina, India, China, Russia, Egypt, the Sudan—encroach upon the world market that was once almost exclusively American. Now, under Section 7 of the recently concluded Anglo-Italian accord, cotton growing is to be expanded to such an extent in Egypt and the Sudan as to make British textile mills as far as possible independent of American grown cotton.

Twenty-five years ago Britain put up \$25,000,000 for the development of cotton in Egypt. It proved conclusively that Egypt was a real cotton country. Success, however, depends entirely upon control of the flood waters of the Nile river. Large sums have accordingly been spent on control projects. But when Italy seized Ethiopia, which embraced the Lake Tana region, the source of the Blue Nile, Egyptian cotton interests were greatly endangered. Control of this region meant life or death to the people in the Nile valley.

Mussolini, of course, was aware of this. He exacted his price. Under the agreement Britain gets an irrigation contract good for 25 years. As for Italy, rentals for 25 years were received in advance as a lump sum. The money is to be utilized in the development of Ethiopia.

The accord, as a whole, is said to have received the blessings of the New Deal administration. Thus, ironically enough, the American government has given approbation to a plan designed in part to put the southern states out of the cotton business as far as Great Britain is concerned.

**Thanks Papers****For Aid In Farm Quota Balloting**

Editor, Journal and Guide: The voting on cotton and tobacco which was held on March 12th went overwhelmingly in favor of acreage reduction. Unofficial estimates indicate that Negro farmers voted in large numbers and thereby showed their interest in this important problem.

A most important factor in getting information to Negro farmers was the Negro Press. For your cooperation in this matter, I am writing to express our very sincere thanks.

—ALBON L. HOLSEY

Tuskegee, Ala.

**Farm Ballot Is A Ballot**

From Kansas City Call

The Negro in the South has the ballot! Hallelujah! No repeal of disfranchisement has taken place. No announcement of any change of public policy in the states which have used subterfuges to evade the 15th amendment. Nonetheless the Negro has the ballot! Before the cotton quota goes into effect for 1938, the farmers will vote on it! not white farmers, but all farmers, black as well as white!

Cotton is the basic crop of the South. Since business sets the course for all community action, the Negro through his vote for the quota of cotton and tobacco which is to be raised becomes a factor in business life. From this point it is only a step to participating in political decisions.

Disfranchisement, like other injustices, is not being overcome by direct attack. But it will not long survive the cooperation which will grow up between the blacks and the whites in a community, when they act together in farm matters.

Only one impediment stands in the way of this great reform—that is the possibility that the Negro farmer will not avail himself of his right to vote on the cotton and tobacco quotas. The whites who have insisted upon disfranchisement will see the threat to their rule which is in blacks casting their farmer votes.

We are not fearful that Negroes will refrain from voting on these farm quotas. We almost risk the prophecy that there will be little effort made to stop them. In spite of all instances of friction, the two races have gotten far enough along in understanding to realize that in money matters they go up or down together.



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6  
Condition of

General

## Farm and Labor in Revolt

A revolt against the New Deal has broken out with increased intensity on both the farm and labor fronts. Perhaps the most vigorous attack on administration policies ever voiced by organized labor was embodied in the resolutions submitted to the American Federation of Labor convention by a committee of which Matthew Woll is chairman.

The fact that the convention declined to ratify these resolutions and submitted their for "further study" to the executive council cannot obscure the importance of this pronouncement on the part of the policy-making committee of that great organization. The convention placed itself in the position of recognizing, in detail, the very charges formulated by the committee on resolutions, and yet shrank from an open declaration that its criticisms were directed at the Roosevelt administration.

The resolutions in question declared that without any intention of using a label as a means of conveying disparagement, "we must say that it should be clear to every American that the philosophy which is being developed in action, by which ever-increasing domain is being given to the state, is expressive of the philosophy and practice of socialism."

In order that there should be no mistake, the resolutions declared that the use of the word "state" is meant principally for the federal government.

Previous resolutions, criticizing the Wagner act and the partisan Labor Relations Board as well as the wages-and-hours act, with demands that they be modified, went through with a whoop. Peace-loving William Green and some of the leading delegates were not quite willing to call a spade a spade and voted, not to defeat these resolutions, but to nullify them a while longer.

All of which can afford little comfort to the administration at Washington.

It has long been "clear," as the Woll resolutions recite, that the increasing encroachments of the "state" upon the domain of private affairs is nothing less than the philosophy and practice of socialism.

In the meantime, the revolt of the farmers in the cotton and grain areas of the United States is making the life of Henry Wallace one long misery. Attention has already been called to the survey made by the Gallup com-

mittee which showed that the popularity of Mr. Roosevelt has dropped to 47 per cent in 12 important central states which normally are Republican and show every indication of sending opponents of the New Deal to congress in the general election which is almost upon us.

In a desperate effort to retain the farm vote, Mr. Wallace now talks of a government plan to buy up vast quantities of surplus farm products and establish a two-price system under which those who are on relief or in the lower income brackets will be able to buy these necessities of life at a lower price than is paid by other consumers. He is to raise what he concedes to be a vast amount of money by imposing a processing tax.

The utter impracticability of this two-price system ought to be obvious to the most experienced mind. It would require a police force equal to the United States army to see to it that only those in the lower income bracket or those on relief were allowed to buy at the lower price.

Moreover, the very suggestion of reviving the processing tax sends a shiver down the spines of American consumers. Discussing the administration's crop-control program, generally, Mark Sullivan, the veteran Washington columnist, recalls that when the AAA statute was sent to congress on March 16, 1933, Mr. Roosevelt accompanied it with a message in which he said:

I tell you frankly that it is a new and untrod path. . . . If a fair administrative trial of it is made and it does not produce the hoped-for results, I shall be the first to acknowledge it and advise you.

The act had been in effect practically three full crop years when the supreme court, in January, 1936, held the processing tax feature unconstitutional.

The administration hastily dug up an existing law dealing with conservation of soil and adapted it so as to make it a second AAA. With this so-called soil conservation measure the administration went on for two years more. Then the New Dealers wrote a new AAA. They wrote it, says Mr. Sullivan, much as they wanted it, for "with the changes that had taken place in the supreme court they felt they could go as far as they liked."

Mr. Sullivan asks if either of the versions of AAA or the whole course of experiments about farming has "produced the hoped-for results." He meets his own question by say-

ing that the principal result hoped for was higher prices for crops and the answer is in today's quotations. Prices are not as low as they were in March, 1933, but they have been moving toward that level "in a way that causes Mr. Wallace and Mr. Roosevelt to understand clearly that their farm program is a failure."

We hear nothing, however, of the president being the first to acknowledge this failure, while Mr. Wallace reverts to the processing tax.

What is this tax? We had it before. It was on cotton, wheat, rice, tobacco, pork and for a time on some other products. Mr. Sullivan points out that the processing tax on pork was two and a quarter cents a pound. This is an extremely heavy tax, since the price of hogs is something like 10 cents a pound, "and I cannot think, offhand, of any other commodity, excepting tobacco and liquor, on which there is a tax that high."

The tax on pork was collected from packers and butchers, and this included the many farmers who, in the fall, kill three or four hogs and sell the meat in a nearby village. Many a farmer found himself "a quarry pursued by government agents demanding that he keep accounts and that he pay a tax of \$20 or \$25 on the sale of three or four hogs, together with a fine, because he hadn't known anything about the tax and hadn't paid it on time."

Such is the system to which Mr. Wallace, presumably with the blessing of the administration, finally turned.

After denouncing the principle of "dumping" our crop surpluses on foreign markets with a domestic subsidy he turned to that plan for the disposition of 100 million bushels of wheat. This plan was vigorously denounced by another member of the administration, Francis Sayre, under-secretary of state, in a speech delivered this week in which he said such a program had already failed and imposed a staggering cost.

Is it not plain that the New Dealers are running around in circles, bewildered and frustrated in their efforts to put through what the Woll committee so accurately defined as a philosophy and practice of socialism?

The policy of killing little pigs and burning wheat while building up an import trade in farm commodities, destroyed two million farm jobs in the United States.

The revolt on the farm and labor fronts was long overdue.

Moultrie, Ga., Observer  
October 1, 1938

## GEORGIA TOBACCO AND SOUTH CAROLINA TOBACCO BY COMPARISON

By C. B. ALLEN

Editor of The Moultrie Observer

Timmonsville, S. C., Sept. 27.

NOTE: This is the first of a series of articles that will compare tobacco growing, curing and marketing, in the Carolinas with the handling of tobacco in Georgia.

Georgians hear much about tobacco production and marketing in North Carolina, but they hear less about the crop in South Carolina. The South Carolina tobacco deal has some interesting points for comparison with Georgia. They are just closing the selling season here now. All of the markets have closed except two—Lake City and Mullins. These will remain open another two weeks.

The new has worn off of tobacco production and marketing in this area. The excitement does not attend the sales that we have in Georgia. It is more of a business and less of a carnival. The curing houses are well worn. The warehouses are mature in appearance. Nothing indicates expansion or new ventures in the tobacco business. They consider the crop this year a poor one. Rains in the growing season hit them hard. They had twenty-four inches of rainfall while the plants were in the growing period. Rainfall of five inches for a single day or two separate days. This resulted in light tobacco.

South Carolina grows tobacco in the famed Pee Dee section. Lands adjacent to the Pee Dee River. The area is slightly smaller than the area of our Georgia tobacco belt. The production per acre is not as great as our production in Georgia, though they have some fine tobacco lands. The season for curing is about the same as that in Georgia,



though the markets were generally open about

a week later than the Georgia opening date.

This season they opened on August 4th.

\* \* \*

The production in South Carolina in 1937

was 115,000,000 pounds. It was the state's rec-

ord year for production, and a record year

for cash returns from tobacco. The Georgia

production last year was 83,000,000 pounds.

With heavier production than Georgia they

have fewer markets. Only nine markets ope-

rate in the state and two of these—Mullins

and Lake City—handled 75,000,000 of the 115-

000,000 pounds of crop of 1937. With fewer

markets they naturally have fewer ware-

houses. They had thirty six warehouses ope-

rating this season against approximately

fifty-six in Georgia. We had sixteen mar-

kets to handle our 95,000,000 pound crop this

year.

\* \* \*

They beat us a little on price in 1937.

They had an average of 20.83 against the

Georgia average of 19.58. This in the face of

the fact that Georgia tobacco is reputed to

be the best on earth. South Carolinians will

admit, off the record, that we produce better

tobacco in Georgia, but they give a new ex-

planation of it. They say it is handled better

in the field by Georgia growers. In South

Carolina tobacco is grown largely on planta-

tions by Negro tenants who handle it very

much like they did two or three decades

back. They progress slowly. In Georgia the

production is largely by white farmers, or by

Negro tenants under white farmers that give

close supervision. Georgians follow the in-

structions of the demonstrators and take ad-

vantage of the experiments and tests made

at the experiment station. They fertilize bet-

ter and cultivate better. This, the Carolinians

say, accounts for the larger yield in Georgia

as well as for the better quality.

**Peonage Threat**

**Rising In South,**

**Says Bankhead**

**Advertiser**

**Continued Control, New**

**Uses For Cotton Need;**

**Experiments Planned**

10-6-38

Senator John Bankhead yesterday warned the people of the South against adoption of the domestic allotment plan, for cotton, in lieu of the present acreage control system; asserted that he would rather lose sight of the foreign markets than drive down the living standards of Southern farmers, and urged a concerted effort to find new uses for the staple.

In connection with the latter plea, Senator Bankhead, in speaking before the Rotary Club at the Jefferson Davis Hotel, revealed that the Alabama congressional delegation was attempting to have the projected \$1,000,000 agricultural experiment station, for determining new uses for cotton, located at Auburn. He termed Auburn an ideal and centrally located point for conducting the experiments.

"In November," he said, "another vote will be taken on the application of acreage control for the next crop year. The result of that vote has tremendous importance to all Southern people. If the vote is against continued cotton marketing control, very low prices for cotton will doubtless abide with us."

"If our people abandon the control program now on the statute books and resort to a domestic allotment plan, and that plan fails to work, the results to the people of the South would be absolutely disastrous."

**Selfish Interests**  
Bankhead said the proposed domestic allotment plan was sponsored by "organized groups who are interested in the quantity of cotton to be handled rather than the price paid for it," and he declared:

"There are people in this country, some of them living in the South, who want to put the cotton producers on a living standard that will enable them to starve out of cotton production the Chinese coolies, the Russian slaves, the Mexican peons."

"For God's sake, if our people have to go through that horrible experience any worse than they have gone through with it, merely to maintain volume of business for exporters; if they have to go down, down, down with their prices to drive that type of foreigner out of the cotton fields, what is going to happen to our poor cotton farmers who all these years have borne the burden of protective tariffs, who have paid the tariff tax upon nearly everything they consume, who have had nothing that they sell protected; whose income is the lowest, smallest per capita income of any major group of people in America?"

"Rather than drive our cotton farmers down to that low degree of financial standing, to that level of living in order to reduce the price of cotton so as to drive foreign countries that are producing it out of production, I would say, let us lose sight of the foreign markets."

**Allotment Proposal**  
Describing the domestic allotment proposal, Bankhead said:

"That plan provides for the payment of parity price on cotton for that portion of the crop domestically consumed, and throws the door wide open for the planting of as large an acreage on each farm as the farm

owner cares to plant. In short, it releases any control of production and returns to the old method of uncontrolled and unlimited and unnecessary production of cotton. The domestic allotment plan is based upon an allotment to each farm, specifying the quantity of cotton on that farm that will receive the benefits of parity price. The total allotments are intended to equal the amount of cotton that will be consumed in the United States that year.

"It will thus be noted that the domestic allotment plan does not eliminate the fixation on each farm of an amount of cotton that it is estimated will be needed by the American cotton mills. Whatever disputes and controversies and dissatisfactions have heretofore existed growing out of the farm allotments will be continued under the domestic allotment plan and probably the dissatisfactions will be multiplied and intensified. Under that plan cotton not covered by the allotment for domestic use will be sold in the market at such a price as it will bring."

The Senator said Secretary Wallace "has been an advocate of low priced cotton in order to maintain our previous volume of foreign sales," but added: "There is some indication that Secretary Wallace is beginning to realize that we cannot afford to engage in an effort to drive the cheap labor of China, Russia, India, Egypt and South America out of cotton production."

Bankhead will speak in Dothan this morning and in Abbeville in the afternoon, going to Troy Saturday. He will return to his Jasper home over the weekend and plan similar speaking swings through the southeast and northeast sections of the State. He was introduced yesterday by Yancey Quinn.

## PRESENT COTTON COURSE BEST, VIEW

**Production Adjustment Is  
Problem, But Difficulties  
Could Be Greater**

AUBURN, Ala.—Cotton production adjustment has resulted in many difficulties but unlimited production during the past few years would have resulted in many more difficulties, believes I. W. Duggan, director of the Southern Region, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington.

Duggan, a native of Georgia, said in a leaflet just issued he realized the problems of the Southern farmer and that the ideal situation would be unlimited production for all farmers with a good price.

"Unfortunately experience since the World War has shown that the two do not often go together," Mr.

Duggan points out. "The large crop of 1937 and the decrease in price seems to bear that out."

Duggan said it was urged by many that the South should return to unlimited production of cotton, but such "an attitude apparently does not take into consideration the factors which made adjustment necessary in the first place."

"So long as the United States was a debtor nation and other countries owed us money there was little trouble in selling cotton overseas. All the mechanism of international trade geared itself to encourage the export of wheat, cotton and lard produced in this country."

"However, the U. S. became a creditor nation during the World War and yet refused to let other countries ship in their goods in payment of their debts. So long as this nation loaned foreign nations the money to buy cotton and other goods, exports held up very well. When this country finally quit lending money abroad, overseas customers reduced their buying."

"Then," says Duggan, "instead of lower tariffs, higher tariffs were adopted. The gate to overseas trade was not only closed, but nailed up. Such a course could have but one result. That was to curtail the market abroad for cotton and other farm products."

"Cotton production can be increased until the staple is cheaper than in 1932. Cotton growers can bankrupt themselves in an effort to regain their foreign market but the market will never be completely regained under the present tariff system."

These and other remarks by Duggan are included in a leaflet called "A Program for Cotton." Anyone interested can get copies from county agents.



# AGRICULTURE - 1938

## CONDITION OF

### YEOMAN IN THE OLD SOUTH

The tenant-ridden South of today should be interested in the results of some historical studies into conditions of the small farmer of South before 1860. Prof. Frank L. Owsley of Vanderbilt University but an Alabamian, has made a thorough study of the subject, and he says that it is time the idea of a few slaveholders and many poor whites is exploded.

"The bulk of Southern rural whites were economically secure and their condition was constantly improving prior to 1860," Prof. Owsley said. "Eighty per cent of Tennessee Valley agriculturists owned their own land in 1860. There was an ever-increasing spread of land ownership, even in the Black Belt of Alabama. In the so-called 'pine barrens' of Alabama, which were not barren at all, land ownership was widely distributed and increasing rapidly from 1850 to 1860. From 68 to 75 per cent of non-slaveholders grew to be landowners, and the gap between the two groups rapidly narrowed. The rich were not getting richer, nor the poor poorer, by any means."

"The bulk of farms of both classes measured 50 to 500 acres, the largest number falling into the 100 to 200-acre or 'three-horse' farm group. Many of the slaveholders thus were farmers rather than planters. The men too hookwormed or too proud to work represented but a small fraction. Even the squatters, much as their tobacco squirting and other characteristics might have unfavorably impressed Northern observers, actually owned as much stock as neighboring landowners and ultimately acquired a land."

The Birmingham News, urging a larger number of "independent, home-owning farmers," makes this comment on Prof. Owsley's thesis:

Prof. Owsley's contentions support the views of two other Southern historians, Benjamin B. Kendrick and Alex M. Arnett, who discuss the point in a little volume entitled The South Looks At Its Past. These authors say that less than 7 per cent of the white families in the South owned 10 or more slaves, and that 75 per cent of the white families in the South in 1860 owned no slaves.

Only about one white family out of 35 could have fitted into the traditional plantation picture with its ample supply of house servants and spacious front gallery on which the planter and his lady were accustomed to enjoy mint juleps of a hot afternoon.

It is important that the South appreciate the fact that it had a strong yeo-

man class of farmers who were homeowners and did their own plowing and milking before 1860. Fiction built around the theme of the traditional aristocratic family and its great house have tended to distort the picture and to create the impression that practically all of the non-slaveholders were poor whites.

As late as 1880 almost two-thirds of the South's farmers were landowners. Since that time there has been a constant decline in the percentage owning land until the percentages are practically reversed today, only about one-third now being landowners. In Alabama, 67 per cent of the farmers are renters. In the last half-century the one-crop system, sharp fluctuations in the price of cotton, erosion of the land, hookworm, malaria and other diseases, and the continuing high birth rate, have contributed to the increase in the number of landless farmers.

A strong yeoman stock, independent and secure, is about the best defense one can ask for in the battle to preserve democracy. The Scandinavian countries know what advantages there in in a solid agricultural economy, unencumbered by a large tenant class. The United States, too, knows that its tenancy system must be ended, and proper steps, though perhaps not adequate steps, are being taken to make farm owners of many tenants in this country today.

### FARM TENANCY IN THE SOUTH

The esteemed Charlotte Observer appreciates the gravity of the farm tenant problem in the South, but it is not excited. On the contrary, it is disposed to be judicious as usual, in its comment.

Says The Observer:

Farm tenancy in the South is distressingly acute. Such is the case in North Carolina.

We wish it were otherwise. To have such a problem in tenancy as exists in our State and in the entire South is a drag upon our social and economic progress.

But it is questionable whether the President's National Emergency Council has valid proof of its contention when it declares that the farm mortgage with high interest rates has forced more than half of the Southern farmers into the status of tenants.

If it is a fact that more than half of our farmers are tenants, and we have no evidence to refute that claim, it is not to be accepted at face value that the farm mortgage with high interest rates is the condition precedent for such an unhappy status.

Of course, the very large Negro population of the South comes into this

## GENERAL

equation.

That factor has materially added to the farm tenancy status.

Even so, Dr. Gus Dyer of Vanderbilt University, "an economist of note," contends that notwithstanding this fact there is no great difference in the percentage of tenant farmers in representative Southern States and Western States.

The percentage of tenant farmers in certain States is as follows:

North Carolina	49.2 per cent
Iowa	47.6 per cent
Nebraska	47.1 per cent
Tennessee	46.2 per cent
South Dakota	44.6 per cent
Delaware	43.1 per cent
Kansas	42.4 per cent
Kentucky	35.9 per cent
Florida	28.4 per cent
Virginia	28.1 per cent

It would appear that in 1930 there were 1,135,141 farms in the Southern States that were owned by the farmers who operated them, and 803,271 of these farms were absolutely free of mortgage. The value of these farms was \$5,204,257,098. The total mortgage indebtedness on the less than 31 per cent of these farms that were mortgaged was \$711,953,000. The value of all farms of this type in the South over and above all mortgage indebtedness was \$4,492,304,098. The total mortgage indebtedness was less than 14 per cent of the value of the farms. While less than 31 per cent of the farms in the South were mortgaged, more than 42 per cent of the farms of this type outside the South were mortgaged. The farm mortgage indebtedness of Iowa, Mr. Wallace states, is greater than that of twelve Southern States combined.

"That the agricultural conditions in the South are favorable to poor men who are seeking to become independent farmers is established by the following facts in the view of Dr. Dyer:"

In 1930, 137,818 Negroes were full owners of their farms in the Southern States, and 83,217 of these Negro farms were free of all mortgaged indebtedness. These mortgage-free farms belonging to Negroes have a value of \$140,538,199.



Agriculture - 1938  
Condition of

Georgia

### NEGRO SHARECROPPER IS DISCOURAGED

Ernest Ryder, with his wife and six children, has been sharecropping all during his mature life, but he is thoroughly discouraged, and wants to quit. He knows he cannot earn in wages enough to feed his crowd, however much he would like to.

Then what? Government aid.

But he says the government has aided the boll weevil and the caterpillar and the cotton flea to bring starvation close to his door this year.

One year, 1936, he worked for Mr. Hancock, down Byron way and cleared \$150 for his year's work, his and his family's work. They all helped. He had a cow and a pig and a garden, and a potato patch. That was his banner year.

In 1938, the rains came, so did the government, and the drought and the weevil and the flea and the caterpillar. The government said on the land he sharecrops with Randolph Walker, three miles east of Byron, he couldn't plant more than six and a half acres of cotton. He put down three tons of guano, of which cost him \$52.50. Two bales were made on the six and a half acres. The landlord gets one, he gets the other. His bale was worth \$42.50, and the seed \$46.50, or \$6 less than the guano cost him.

Giving the labor free, he received advances from Mr. Walker. They amounted to \$60 in cash. Now, how to pay Mr. Walker? Then Mr. Walker would have to advance some more money to keep the cropper and his family eating during the remainder of the year. The summer garden has given out. No fall garden was planted, because the cropper might move. A cow was giving milk, and this brightened the prospect. A pig was growing, but he was not big enough to do much good; little meat could be counted on from him. Mr. Walker would be obliged to let the cropper family have some more advances.

"Well, I made a good showing of corn," said Ernest. "Several wagon loads. There must have been 260 bushels. I had to let Mr. Walker have my half of that as well as his own 80 bushels. It was bringing only 45 cents a bushel. My eighty bushels was enough to pay nearly half of what I have borrowed in advances. But I put a ton of guano under the corn, and I owed Mr. Walker for my half of that, so I won't get any corn.

"But the government hadn't bothered about my peanuts. I made three tons. One and a half tons are mine, and one and a half goes to Mr. Walker. They tell me peanuts are bringing sixty dollars a ton. Mr. Walker gets ninety dollars worth, and I get ninety dollars worth. But I can't live on peanuts. My share will have to go to Mr. Walker for advances he is to make to me after the six months contract. That's the way it always is. We sharecroppers can never depend on anything from corn or peanuts, but if we make a good crop of them, they will help us to get advances."

Then, hopefully, he said "I've got some potatoes I haven't dug yet."

"No," he said, "we can't get fixed so we can raise cows and hogs and chickens. I've been farming this way all my life, but a garden is all we can get fenced off. I don't blame Mr. Walker and he don't blame me. We are both sorry for each other. If he has money, he's afraid to spend it, 'cause nobody knows what to expect. If the government will pay me out of debt and let me have a farm, it looks to me like I ought to go to the government if they'll take me. I am trying to get on with the government."

Cordoba Ga. Democrat  
October 19, 1938

Atlanta Ga. Journal  
November 16, 1938

## Negro Makes Good, Pays Obligations

LEESBURG, Ga., Oct. 19. (P) — Buster Wright, the "one-ox" farmer, says a man can make a living in Lee County "if he'll work."

Buster ought to know. The 56-year-old negro has made a good crop, paid out of debt and has money in the bank. He did it with only the help of his ox, which he calls "Buddie."

Buster rents the 21-acre farm but he's negotiating now to buy it. He has raised four tons of No. 1 Spanish peanuts, a bale of cotton, 60 bushels of corn, plenty of sweet potatoes and good cane and watermelon crops. Buster also has enough hogs for meat next year.

He and his wife live alone on their farm near here.

# IN CRACKERLAND

By RALPH SMITH



### THE ISSUE PERSISTS—PEANUT OR GOOBER?

The Southeastern Peanut Festival, though the biggest and best of the many carnivals staged at Dawson, fell short of satisfying Mrs. Becky Rainey, its fair impresaria. She confessed as much yesterday on arrival in Atlanta to attend a luncheon given by Governor and Mrs. Rivers in compliment to Tallulah Bankhead. . . . Finding "Peanut Soup a la Becky" on the menu, Mrs. Rainey lamented: "We glorified the peanut as it had never been glorified before, but, alas, we didn't determine if and when a peanut is a goober, or vice versa. It seems unbelievable, too, considering that we had among our guests the governor himself, Senator George, Senator Russell, Congressman Pace, Congressman Cox and numerous others no less well informed about agriculture."

With the grace and tact well becoming "Georgia's political sweetheart," Mrs. Rainey attributed her disappointment to the failure of the debate she had arranged to materialize. "And that was purely Providential," she says, "since I am sure Colonel Alex McQueen, of Charlton County, was unavoidably detained at Folkston on the day set."

"You understand, of course, that Colonel Cecil Cannon, Colonel Henry Troutman and Colonel James J. Page were scheduled to debate the peanut-goober issue. It was tentatively hoped, if not understood, that Colonel McQueen would enter the lists, and undoubtedly he would have done so except for his unavoidable detention, if for no other reason than to defend his contention that a 'goober' is one-kerneled, whereas a peanut usually contains two or more pods."

"It seems only fair to disclose that Colonels Cannon, Troutman and Page were present at the given hour prepared to debate the issue and probably would have entered a threesome had they not discovered at the last minute that they were in agreement—all three holding the view that a peanut and a goober are one and the same

animal. Colonel Page, by the way, has since expressed regret that Colonel McQueen was not in attendance, because, he modestly confesses, he was fortified with "proof positive" that a goober isn't necessarily one-kerneled.

"It's a letter," says the Colonel, written by C. B. Howard, 301 Bolling Jones Building, Atlanta, which I quote:

"You are entirely correct, Colonel Page, in insisting that Colonel McQueen is off his kerzip in asserting that a goober is one-kerneled."

"When a small boy I lived in Kirkwood, where, also, at the same time lived Colonel Tom Howard, General Gordon, Governor Colquitt, Professor Neel, Major Warren, Mr. Emery, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Robson and Colonel Alston."

"The children of these families will remember the Georgia Railroad train that came into Atlanta in the morning and returned in the afternoon was known as the 'Goober' because it had three coaches."

"Mr. Howard's contribution," concludes Colonel Page, "settles the question, for who is there who doesn't recall 'The Jug' that operated between Atlanta and Griffin, way back yonder, when the former was dry and the latter wet?"



## PEANUT PREFERRED

Mrs. Rainey doubts not that the status quo of the peanut-goobar controversy will be preserved until next year's festival, when she hopes it will be possible to settle forever the issue . . . and, she whispers, in favor of the peanut.

"It sounds more euphonious, it seems to me, to speak of peanut-oil, peanut-butter, peanut-meal, peavine-hay and PEANUTS than to describe these things as goober-this-and-that," she continues. "I am not unmindful of the fact that the dictionary acknowledges goober, just as it does pinda, and I concede gooberites every right to insist on their place in the sun.

"At the moment, anyhow, our attention and interest in the peanut country is centered in pecans. It is with pleasure that I report the resumption of the cracking plants in Dawson and elsewhere in southwest Georgia, which were closed down temporarily by the advent of the wage-hour law. They aren't operating as extensively as formerly, but they are operating, in many instances replacing negroes with white employes."

A-1 shelled pecans, Mrs. R. says, are selling at about 50 cents a pound. These same nuts wholesale, in the hull, for about 20 cents a pound, as against seedlings in the hull at about 6 cents.

## IT'S POLITICS NOW

From peanuts and pecans, Becky Rainey turns to politics—partisan politics of Democratic kidney, along with Mrs. Rivers, Mrs. James L. Gillis and a host of other women who take an active interest in public affairs. . . . Tomorrow will find Mrs. Rivers, Mrs. Gillis and Mrs. Rainey headin' south, to Lakeland, first, where the Governor and Mrs. Rivers will entertain the Democratic Women's Clubs . . . and then to Valdosta, where, on Saturday, Mrs. Rainey will introduce Mrs. Helen Coxon, "the Lady from Long," at the annual convention of the distaff Democratic organization.

It is hardly more than a cat-hop from Valdosta to Lakeland—minutes only by motor—and this renders it possible for the Governor and Mrs. Rivers to receive at their lovely lake-shore home delegates attending the Valdosta convention.

These meetings, by the way, promise to rate any others heretofore staged under the auspices of the Democratic Women's Clubs.

Albany, Ga., Herald

November 6, 1938

WISE WAS ONE There is re-

NEGRO FARMER called the case

of a Negro

farmer of Dougherty county who through dint of industry, thrift and foresight accumulated a competency. He made money every year—built up the soil he cultivated, rotated his crops, and could have borrowed money at any bank in Albany had borrowing been necessary.

One day a white friend urged him to sell his farm, move to Albany, build some houses to rent, buy a couple of stores, and "take things easy" for the rest of his life.

The wise Negro shook his head. "Much obliged," he said, "but I don't know anything about city property, collecting rents, and a lot more. I know how to farm, but that's all. Every morning I get up at the crack of dawn and ring the farm bell. I eat breakfast by lamp light, and usually I go to bed as soon as it's dark. I am happy doing that—and plowing, planting, cultivating and gathering the crops I know how to make. A good many families work on my farm and I owe them something. They would be lost if I left them. Thank you for your interest, but I think I'd better stay on the farm."

He did, till he died, a contented man.



Agriculture - 1938

Georgia

Condition of

## Alexander Envisages Rural South As Basis for Future Advancement

Nation's Prosperity Depends On What Happens to Farm People, FSA Administrator Tells Georgia Conference on Social Work in Macon.

MACON, Ga., April 5.—(P)—Dr. W. W. Alexander, head of the Federal Farm Security Administration, appealed tonight for "restoration of the soil" as the prime factor in making Georgia build a firm foundation for future advancement.

Although he dealt largely with the problems of this state, Dr. Alexander told the Georgia conference on social work that the nation's prosperity in generations to come depended to a great extent on what happens to the people of the rural south.

He cited two other requisites besides agricultural development for a long-range program of "salvaging human values."

"Education that will develop in our people those skills that will enable them intelligently to utilize to the fullest our vast natural resources; and

"Faith in the power of the masses to do their share in the task of restoration that lies ahead."

### Rights of People.

Touching on labor unionism, he said it was "highly important" for citizens, public officials and courts to "realize the necessity of protecting these humble people in their fundamental rights to free speech, free assembly, and the freedom to organize as workers."

H. T. McIntosh, editor of the Albany Herald, presided at the night session. Earlier speakers included Miss Louisa DeB. Fitzsimons, of the State Public Welfare Department; Miss Gay B. Shepperson, works progress administrator, and Dr. M. V. Ziegler, of the United States Public Health Service.

### Results of WPA.

Miss Shepperson said the greatest contribution of the WPA is the "restored feeling of self-respect" it has given thousands of individuals. "Any WPA worker can feel that he has actually earned the money he has received," she said.

"There are some persons who believe direct relief to the needy is a better policy than that of giving employment to them through

Miss Fitz-Simons urged consideration of:

1. Relief for the unemployable persons, including relief for employable persons during temporary illness and relief of employable persons during waiting periods, and

2. Protection of children through improvement of adoption procedures and placement.

### Progress in State.

She reviewed recent progress in organization of social work in Georgia and pointed out there were 35 almshouses with 730 persons under care on April 1, 1938, compared with 58 almshouses with 1,334 persons on January 1, 1937.

Under the social security program, she said, "assistance grants have been investigated, approved and paid to 39,159 persons through the third annual Southeastern Peanut Festival are rapidly going forward." Of these, 28,010 are aged persons, 961 blind persons, and 10,288 children in 3,739 family groups."

### Dr. Ziegler Speaks.

Five requisites for successful organization of health resources were presented.

"The assembling of our public health resources," he said, "is dependent upon the well-organized health department, adequately financed and staffed with qualified personnel, and supported by the local medical profession, suitable laws and ordinances, and favorable public opinion."

### Requisite Outlined.

Dr. Ziegler said establishment of a health service required that the following conditions prevail:

1. The area should be a political entity.

2. The area should possess legal authority to levy taxes and disburse funds for organized, full-time health service.

3. It must be able to invest personnel appointed with necessary legal status.

4. It should possess wealth, which when moderately taxed will provide sufficient funds to pay for reasonable adequate full-time health service.

5. Its population, area and health problems should not be disproportionate to the budget provided."

### Earlier Speaker.

Miss Louisa Deb Fitz-Simons, speaking earlier, urged the conference to "fight illiteracy and prejudice" and "join hands with the farm security administration and the agricultural extension department in an attack on low standards of living in rural areas."

"We need to seek normal employment at fair wages and until such time as this is accomplished we need to urge adequate support of WPA with sufficient quota to meet the need of able bodied workers," she said.

Albany, Ga., Herald  
August 14, 1938

## Southeastern Peanut Festival Plans Go Forward in Dawson

Will Be Held October 31 to November 5, Inclusive. Awards to Be Made for County or Community Exhibits Are Announced.

DAWSON, Ga., Aug. 13.—With the release today of the premium list and announcement of departmental superintendents, plans for the third annual Southeastern Peanut Festival are rapidly going forward.

Following the listing of awards to be made for county or community exhibits, the premium catalogues carry the following invitation, "Competition open to the world," which is but further evidence that the festival to be held in Dawson October 31-November 5 (inclusive) is not to be strictly a local affair.

Awards to be made for county or community exhibits have been announced as follows: First, \$35; second, \$30; third, \$25, with an award of \$20 to each county or community making a creditable exhibit and not winning a prize.

The various departmental superintendents have been announced as follows: Department "A" (Community Exhibits), R. B. Heath, Supt.; Department "B" (Peanuts), H. A. Petty, Supt.; Department "C" (Cotton), R. S. Norton, Supt.; Department "D" (Horticulture), J. N. Hudson, Supt.; Department "E" (Agricultural Exhibits), C. A. Hautman, Supt.; Department "F" (4-H Club Members), D. E. Pinkston, Supt.; Department "G" (Commercial Displays), Peanuts, Ed Stevens, Supt.; Cottonseed, H. G. Richey, Supt.; Department "H" (Canned Fruits and Vegetables), Mrs. Lillie Fleming, Supt.; Department "I" (Swine), J. W. Bridges, Supt.; Department "J" (Poultry), J. O. Fussell, Supt.

Colored farmers, not only in Terrell but in the adjoining counties, will be invited to display the products of their farms in the festival, and the Colored Department will be in charge of the following: Department "A" (Community Exhibits), Buster Myrick, Supt. The

awards for community exhibits for the colored exhibitors will be, first award, \$20; second, \$15, and third, \$10. There will be numerous smaller awards for best displays of individual items in farm products.

Department "B" (Cotton and Peanuts), Shed James, Supt.; Department "C" (4-H Club Members), Bob Everette, Supt.; Dept. "D" (Horticulture), George Hubphries, Supt.; Department "E" (Agricultural Exhibits), Magee Anderson, Supt.

According to Henry S. Jennings, prominent local insurance man, and immediate past commander of the Davis-Daniel Post of the American Legion, who has been named manager of festival activities, considerable interest in the approaching festival already is evident in a number of the other counties of this section, from which creditable exhibits are expected.

Each day during the festival will have some special significance. Monday will be Civic Club Day. Tuesday, a horse and mule show such as has never been staged in this section is planned with a mammoth parade of livestock to feature on this day's program.

Wednesday will be Coronation Day. The selection of the Festival Queen and her Court of Honor will be followed by a parade of floats. The parade will be climaxed at the festival grounds by a pageant which will depict interesting phases of the peanut industry and peanut production.

Thursday has been designated as Georgia-Florida-Alabama Peanut Association Day, and officials from Washington are expected to be honor guests and speakers on this day.

Friday has been set aside as Governor Day, the Governor and his staff, and senators and congressmen making up the list of honor guests who will be invited



Saturday, the closing day of the festival, has been designated as Dr. George W. Carver Day, in honor of the noted colored scientist of Alabama. An effort will be made to have Doctor Carver visit the festival on that day, or if he is unable to attend, have a duly appointed representative of the scientist attend the festival and bring for display the handsome exhibit of products developed by Doctor Carver.

Farmers throughout the peanut belt are being urged to save their choicest products, especially peanuts on the vine and picked, for display in the festival.

Officers of the Southeastern Peanut Festival Association are H. G. Richey, president; Ed Stevens, vice president; Dallas Spurlock, secretary-treasurer; Henry S. Jennings, manager. Each of these officials state that they welcome inquiries concerning festival matters from any who may be interested in planning exhibits for the gala event which promises to surpass anything of its kind ever to be held in this section.

## Many Exceed Quotas In Montgomery County, Bureau Finds

The work of checking measurements of cotton fields is still in progress in this county and is not expected to be completed for another 10

days or two weeks. Beat 21 at Mt. Meigs was reported to have the largest percentage of farmers who overplanted in the Spring. In that section picking has been in progress for about two weeks and practically all fields have been picked over at least one time, it was stated.

and Farmers who have been expecting to be reimbursed by the government for the cotton ginning taxes on the 1934 and 1935 cotton crops are in for a disappointment, unless they paid the six-cent tax at the gin the office of Lem A. Edmonson, farm agent, explained yesterday.

There will be no repayment, it was said, to any farmer who bought his gin certificates, from an individual or from the office of the farm agent, because the money was never paid over to the government but went to farmers. It was pointed out that many farmers of Oklahoma had surplus gin certificates in those two years and sold them through a national pool. These certificates were first offered at five cents a pound, but were reduced later to four cents, it was stated. The tax paid at the gins was six cents a pound the money going to the U. S. Treasury. The repayments on the six cent tax will be made by the State Internal Revenue collector.

Many of the local farmers, it was explained, have been under the impression they would be reimbursed for the amount of the certificates they bought in the two years the Bankhead

# SUMTER FARMERS WILL WORK ROADS

## WPA Agriculture-Relief Project to Help Farm-to-Market Highways

(Telegraph's Georgia News Service)

AMERICUS, Sept. 10.—Sumter county farmers who have cleared less than \$300 this year on their crops will begin registering Monday at the Sumter county Public Works Administration headquarters here for work on a \$828,047 road building program here this winter. George Dykes, public welfare director announced today. Dykes said he thought the farmers will be employed chiefly to construct farm-to-market roads throughout the county and probably would be paid on the same scale as common WPA labor at the rate of 23 cents per hour for a 40 hour week.

"All farmers who cleared under \$300 this year on their crops are eligible for seasonal employment with

the WPA this winter," Dykes said. "The present program calls for employing the farmers from the time they finish gathering their crops this year until they begin their farm work next spring."

An agricultural worker was defined by Dykes as "a worker whose present income is derived from the farm as a landowner, sharecropper, or renter, or wage hand, or day laborer."

He said that Sumter county is to receive \$828,047 in federal relief funds as the first installment of a state-wide Works Progress Administration road program for Georgia.

Only one member of a family may be employed on work projects.



Agriculture - 1938

Louisiana

## Condition of Sharecroppers in Louisiana in Poor State, Says

By RICHARD THOMAS

NATCHITOCHES, La., Sept. 29  
—(ANP)—A grim state of woe is the picture of the poverty stricken Negro sharecroppers who live on plantations situated along the banks of the Red river in Natchitoches parish. Plagued with unending debts claimed by the plantation owners, and ravished by exorbitant prices they must pay for groceries advanced them by the commissary store, theirs is an existence worse than European peasantry.

Even though growers have received each year from eight to ten cents a pound for cotton, and the government has paid them for soil conservation, the croppers in many instances have received no cash, or at most yearly settlements amounting to \$10 to \$15. Accompanying the measly cash paid them is a slip showing a balance due the landlord for debts he claims they owe.

Now and then a tenant gathers enough courage to ask for a settlement. Usually he is told, "the others called it even. You had better, too, if you don't want to be turned out on the road."

Tricked of their cash earnings these humble peasants are forced to accept the weekly apportionment granted them at the landlord's store for which they pay prohibitive prices.

Here are a few examples from actual reports of how they are overcharged for their purchases. They pay 5c for soap that sells two for a nickel; 75c for syrup that sells for 40 per gallon; 20c per pound for coffee that sells for 15c a pound and flour ordinarily 75c is sold for \$1.

On one plantation tenants were refused kerosene lamps. Another allowed each member of the family one each of the following articles, a work shirt, overalls, work shoes and a winter undershirt. Some are limited to groceries they may get each week.

Rural slums virtually reek with disease because they are denied even the bare necessities of life.



# Agriculture - 1938

## Condition of

Hernando, Miss. Promoter  
March 24, 1938

### NEGRO UPHOLDS

#### FARM SITUATION

The following letter recently appeared in the Times-Democrat at Tunica, Mississippi. It is written by the Rev. P. R. Gibson, colored moderator, pastor and publisher and contains a letter showing how John Claybrook, colored land owner, of Crittenden county defended the sharecropper situation.

"To The Times-Democrat,  
Tunica, Mississippi

"The colored people should remember the word of the Lord Jesus Christ, when He said to the people: 'Make yourself friendly with the richness of the world.

"Remember people that the Southern white man is the best friend a colored man has in the Southern states.

"We do not need the Northern man's propaganda, therefore we ask our people to stay out of the Farmer's Tenant Union.

"Listen to what John C. Claybrook, Arkansas, says:

"John C. Claybrook, well-to-do negro merchant, planter and logging contractor of Proctor, Arkansas, in a letter to J. O. E. Beck, planter at Hughes, Arkansas, tells how he defends the sharecropper system in a conversation with an Illinois Judge.

"He discussed the sharecropper situation with me, as he was under the impression that the landowners were all wrong in the South with the sharecropper," Claybrook wrote. I explained it to him as it was and settled it very quickly by asking him a few questions. He has a very beautiful dairy farm, with cows ranging from \$100 to \$150 each. I asked him if he would furnish me the cows, dairy, land and a house to live in and let me milk them and deliver one-half the milk and let me take the other half for my work. He explained to me frankly that he would not. I told him what he would

not do was exactly as the landowners in this county were doing."

"Why do you listen to the Northern white man? Keep out of the Farmer Tenant Union, it will only cause you trouble.

Rev. P. R. Gibson, Moderator  
S. Parkway Dist. Association.

## MISSISSIPPI SENATORS BRING 'SECTIONALISM' INTO TAX RATE DEBATE

Hill Counties Block Adoption  
Of Committee Report On

Property Levy  
OUTNUMBER DELTA, 26-19

Senator Tom Rosedale Hits  
Localism In State

### 'NO BIG RICH PLANTERS'

'As Many Poor People In Delta  
As In Other Section,' He  
Says In Challenging Harper  
Statement

By KENNETH TOLER  
From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 11.—Sectional feelings of the "hill counties" towards the "Delta area" were raised today in Senate debate on the property tax rate for the next biennium.

Outnumbering the Deltans, who in 1890 surrendered their right of equal legislative representation to the hill counties to safeguard white supremacy, opponents to a low rate blocked adoption of a Conference Committee report on the tax levy.

Distribution of representation gives the northeast and other sections from one to three members to a county, while the Delta has

one to a county in some cases and in others one member representing as many as three counties.

#### Report Is Rejected

In rejecting the conference report, 26 to 19, the Senate voted to request the House to reopen negotiations looking to adjustment of differences over the levy. The Senate had fixed it at eight mills with a sliding scale provision permitting it to be lowered to four mills if the revenue receipts warranted such action by executive proclamation while the House changed it to a six-mill maximum and no minimum, which would have permitted abolition. As a compromise, the committee had suggested an eight-mill maximum and no minimum.

Senator Frank Harper of Hattiesburg raised the sectional question in charging that House members from the Delta, which he termed the "rich plantation area," had lowered the rate hoping to eventually lift it from the "plantations of those big rich planters." Vigorous even in his 77 years, Senator W. B. Roberts of Rosedale this body.

Impatient With Adjectives  
"The Delta won't benefit any more than property in other sections of the state," the veteran of 20 years' legislative service said. "I grow impatient when I hear statements about 'the big Delta plantations—the rich planters.' 'I've got to say something for the Delta,' he said. "In all of the years of my service here in this Senate body, not once have I raised the sectional issue, although the Delta counties pay one-third of the total expense of the state government in taxes.

"In the 1890 Constitutional Convention we of the Delta asked that our representation be put in you men in the hills and it ought to be considered a sacred trust. If this Senate departs from that rule, it will be the first to ever have done so.

"The whole system is changing," he said of the section with a population over 50 per cent negro. "Negroes are leaving the Delta daily for Northern and Eastern sections. Over 3000 white tenant farmers from northeast Mississippi have moved into the Delta in the past few years, many of them your own people.

#### Delta Asks Justice

"All we of the Delta ask is justice. There is nothing sectional

this matter or should there be in any question presented to the Senate or House.

"God knows we all ought to want to take the tax off the property of our people. We don't want to take another \$5,000,000 (referring to the anticipated treasury surplus next June) from these people in excess of what is needed to run the state government. The Delta won't benefit any more than other sections if the property tax is reduced. We are poor. Many of us are faced with conditions last year.

"I am tired hearing statements about 'damn big rich Delta plantations.' There are none. "We of the Delta are not complaining about taxes, but we don't think it is right to object to a proposal that might give us a little relief along with the other sections."

#### Hits Sectionalism

George Ritchey of Tunica, who represents three of the larger Delta counties, urged that "the question of sectionalism never be raised in this body." "There are just as many poor sections in the Delta as in the other sections, and just as good and honorable citizens as you will find anywhere," he declared.

Representative Mansard Bulloch of Water Valley offered the motion to reject the report. Senator Roberts, who was a member of the conference group, said if it is not accepted that he would request its discharge "as we have exhausted our efforts." When the report was rejected, Lieut. Gov. J. B. Snider renamed Senator Roberts, who is chairman of the Finance Committee, to the new group along with Senator Bulloch and Senator Mac Young of Aberdeen, who favors pegging the rate at eight mills. Senators G. B. Herring of Canton and G. W. Holloway of Carson had served on the original committee.

#### House Action Pending

House action has not been taken on the report, and will be unnecessary in view of the Senate's attitude. Speaker Fielding Wright may retain his present committee, composed of Chairman W. A. Williams, Pike County, of the House Ways and Means Committee; Representative Thomas L. Bailey of Lauderdale County and Representative Willie Strait of Franklin-Lincoln Counties.

Senate consideration of the property tax replaced the special order set for the bill setting up a State Highway Motor Patrol, which was

reset for special consideration on Tuesday morning.

Opposing further delay, and suggesting an afternoon session for its consideration, Senator J. C. Rice of Natchez charged that the patrol was designed to "set up another political machine."

"We don't need any additional political machines to browbeat the people," he said. "We already have plenty of them at work in this Legislature."

#### Gambling Bills Delayed

An effort to consider the Chatham-Spencer House Bills seeking to put "teeth" in the anti-gambling statutes in order to close establishments said to be operating in DeSoto County was unsuccessful. Several members objected to hurried consideration without ample time to study the bills, which were passed by the House yesterday in 15 minutes with unanimous action.

Lieutenant Governor Snider, president of the Senate, took the floor to urge immediate consideration of the bills tightening the anti-gambling and prohibition statutes by permitting their abatement as public nuisances through injunction. Bond is also required to assure discontinuance of activities for two years.

"Mississippi has been challenged by the lawless element," he said. "It is time for us to rise up and demand that our laws be respected and to close those loopholes through which many are escaping prosecution."

"These bills should be given our immediate consideration, because they are highly important to our future well-being," he said. "I cannot too urgently request that they be passed and without delay."

#### Aimed at Memphis Gamblers

Representative Gerald Chatham of DeSoto County, co-author with Representative N. A. Spencer of DeSoto County, said the bills were aimed at Memphis gamblers operating across the state line in his county. He obtained speedy action in the House in view of court convening at Hernando Monday before which 13 alleged violators are slated for trial.

House activity consisted of passage of non-controversial bills and the setting for special order next Thursday afternoon of the liquor bill authorized by Representative Sam Wright of LeFlore County and others.

A motion by Representative Sam Lumpkin of Lee-Itawamba Counties, opponent of the bill, to have it set for special order Wednesday was defeated, 47 to 46, after which pro-



ponents agreed to setting it the following day. The vote was not considered an indication of the strength of the proponents, who will be led by Representative Walter Sillers of Bolivar County.

#### Sales in Package Lots

Under the liquor bill, counties would be permitted to vote on legalization within their borders. Sales would be confined to unbroken package lots, except in those municipalities where governing boards through ordinance permit broken package sales.

Licensed stores are set up under the proposed "Alcoholic Control Act," with none to be operated in municipalities without police supervision.

A bill passed by the House permits municipalities to carry group insurance on their officers and employees. The insurance is optional with the officials and employees, who would be required to pay one-half of the premium, the other being cared for by the city.

Chairman Stewart Watson of the Senate Committee on Fees and Salaries favorably reported three bills dealing with salary increases for legislators and state officials.

#### Newman Bill Approved

The Newman House Bill raising legislative pay at extra sessions from \$7.50 a day to \$10 was approved, as was the proposal to increase salaries of certain elective officials from \$3150 to \$5000 annually. In this group are the secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, superintendent of education, insurance commissioner, agriculture commissioner and land commissioner.

Another bill increasing the salary of the deputy state insurance commissioner to \$2400 a year was favorably reported.

Senator Rice's "socialized medicine" bill was introduced during the day. It would permit state aid to indigent sick in their homes. He pointed out that hospitalization is not afforded, and that his proposal is designed to aid doctors who render services to patients who are later taken to hospitals as charity cases.

#### Poor Land Blamed On Drifting Tenants

COLUMBUS, Miss., Oct. 10. — Drifting tenant farmers are to blame for wearing out the soil and jumbling the South's economic life, T. Roy Reid of Little Rock, regional director of the Farm Security Administration, said at the annual farmers meeting of the Kiwanis Club.

He said progress was being made in the campaign to make stable farmers of former drifters, through governmental agencies of the Department of Agriculture, but declared the program was naturally long range and funds were not available to touch every worthy

family at one time. Mr. Reid said 79 per cent of Mississippi's 300,000 farm families were tenants and that almost half of these tenants moved every year. "They have no interest in the land, all they want is what they can get out of it for one year only," he said.

## LANDLORDS CHARGED TOO MUCH INTEREST

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 20. — (Special) — Decision of a trial court which attracted nationwide attention and interest several months ago, that by charging a Negro tenant a usurious rate of interest on a crop loan, his white landlord had forfeited not only the interest but the principal as well, has been upheld in all respects by the Supreme Court of Mississippi, which declined to change or modify the ruling in any way.

The original judgment now sustained by the State's highest court, was in the case of Les Taylor vs. J. W. Copeland, owner of extensive plantation holdings in the rich Delta section of the State. On the basis of the evidence presented regarding the crop loan in controversy, with interest, amounting in all to approximately \$2,300, to the effect that Copeland had charged his tenant Taylor with interest at as high a rate as 20 per cent, it was held the rate being usurious. Copeland could recover neither the interest claimed nor the principal, but had forfeited both.

## Cheated Out Of Checks

### Not Allowed To Get Funds From Checks

CLARKSDALE, Miss. — (ANP) — Landlords here are being paid the subsidiary allowance of their 1937 cotton crops as set forth in the late Farm Bill. According to the enacted piece of legislation, cotton raisers who applied for the price insurance for their crops were guaranteed a minimum of 9 and 12c per pound respectively for the low and high grade cotton produced during 1937.

As cotton prices for last year fell below these set marks, the government, through its farm department, is now making up the difference.

The agency, after checking up the various accounts, sent the checks to the different landowners and, of course, to the many tenants of these plantations as per their shares of the 1937 crops. The local agency here gave each plantation operator the checks of his tenants.

Many turned the checks over to the Negro sharecroppers, as the checks are made out to individuals and cannot be cashed without the proper indorsement. However, there are complaints that tenants are being forced to endorse the checks, not allowed to cash them and are not given any compensation in return.

It has been alleged that Andrew Jackson, Negro tenant, protested when told to endorse the check due him, but after the exchange of a few none-too-favorable remarks, was persuaded, at the point of a gun, to sign the check.

## FARM TENANCY GAINS ALARM U. S. EXPERT

Comm. on Agriculture  
Baker Warns Agents Of Losses

In Land Control

### ABSENT OWNERSHIP COSTS

Growers Spending \$400,000,000 Annually In Interest, Federal

Economist Declares At Mississippi Meeting

Special to The Commercial Appeal

STATE COLLEGE, Miss., Dec. 19. — "American farmers are losing ownership of the land."

That was the warning made by Dr. O. E. Baker of the United States Department of Agriculture before the annual conference of county farm and home demonstration agents here today.

#### Blames Speculation

Declaring that "ownership of the land by farmers is the Nation's greatest bulwark of freedom," Dr. Baker said "farmers now own less than half the farm land of the United States and despite lower interest rates they are paying non-landowners \$400,000,000 in interest annually on farm mortgage indebtedness."

The economist pointed out that farm tenancy is highest in the cotton, corn and wheat belts. He attributed speculation in land commercialized farming as primary causes of the loss of land ownership.

Presenting a comprehensive study of changes in farm population and of a rapidly declining birth rate in cities, Dr. Baker said the rural South has the highest birth rate of any section of the Nation and in the future the cities will depend more upon migration of farm boys and girls to urban centers.

#### Urge More Education

Making an appeal for the maintenance and security of the family, Dr. Baker said he placed his hope for the future in science, universal education, the co-operative system, the tradition of the rural home and the teachings of the Christian faith. Dr. A. G. Balz, professor of philosophy of the University of Virginia, offered education as the "ultimate solution of the problem of the race."

He said the most important subject that should be taught in the public schools and colleges is logic, yet it is not taught in any high school in the United States.

Listing numerous causes of the loss of exports of American cotton, P. K. Norris, economist of the United States Department of Agri-

culture, said Southern farmers must do a better job of growing, ginning, handling and marketing cotton.

#### Criticizes Cotton Handling

He said the South has made little improvement in the methods of handling cotton during the past 50 years. He told how the Department of Agriculture had selected eight points in the South to grow, gin, handle and market about 5000 bales of cotton directly from the gin to the spinner. This cotton is of the same variety, was graded, classed and stapled at the gin and the bale covering was never cut.

Afternoon group discussions were directed by Paul Newell, Morris Crumpton, Farmer Kelly, John Williams, R. M. Lancaster, M. M. Benenbaugh, L. I. Jones, Mary Agnes Gordon, Blanche Goad, Sallie S. Swann, Eudie Kavanaugh, Jewell Garland, Josephine Crain and Maxine Naucher.



# Agriculture - 1938

## Condition of.

Gatesville, N. C., Index

March 16, 1938

### THE HOME AND GARDEN A NECESSITY

At this time of the year, most farmers are trying to do many things on the farm, and sometimes the crops that bring in cash are given the first consideration. The so-called money crops are given the first place because farmers do not think of the fact that "A Dollar saved is a dollar made," and when the home supplies are grown on the farm, there is money saved that would otherwise have to be used to purchase them. The home garden should have the first consideration on the farm and be given a choice place.

When a farmer is asked "Do you have a Garden?" the answer should be "yes, I have a garden." This answer would mean that the farmer really is growing a garden, not just two or three vegetables—a row of turnips and a row of col-

lards are not enough to make a garden. There should be at least seven different kinds of vegetables in every spring garden. Each year some new vegetable should be added. Now is the time to start in order to have a good spring garden. The following vegetables may be planted this month: in the open—greens of all kinds, turnips, peas, parsley, Irish potatoes, beets, radish, salsify, carrots and onions. Cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi, brussel sprouts and lettuce may be transplanted to the garden. Tomatoes, peppers, and egg plant should be transplanted to cold frame about four inches apart to harden before they are put in the field. Some vegetables that are not generally used in this section may be tried. They are: Chinese cabbage, green sprouting broccoli, endive, salsify, cauliflower, Swiss chard, and brussel sprouts.

Another important thing about the garden is the preparation of the soil. The garden should be made the richest place on the farm, for most of these vegetables require a large amount of plant food for the best growth. The best general purpose fertilizer for the garden is stable manure. It furnishes plant nutrients in a reasonably balanced form, and it helps to keep the soil in good condition by

furnishing organic matter. A reasonable amount of this should be used, and at this time of the year, it should be mixed well into the soil. The best time to apply this is in the fall and winter, however, if it is in good condition and well mixed splendid results may be obtained now.

A good grade of complete fertilizer should be used also. For most vegetables 5-7-5 is very satisfactory. In addition to this it is well to use side applications of readily available nitrogen fertilizers. This is especially necessary for leafy vegetables. It is always important that the fertilizer be well mixed with the soil. Large amounts of fertilizer not mixed will prevent or hinder the germination of seeds and keep the plants from growing.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer  
September 10, 1938

## NEGRO FARMERS HOLD FIELD DAY

### Coltrane, Chief Speaker at Willard, Urges Use of Recommended Fertilizers

Willard, Sept. 9.—D. S. Coltrane, assistant to the State agricultural commissioner, today called upon an audience of more than 4,000 Negro farmers to "turn away from the horse and buggy days" by using fertilizer grades based on State Experiment Station recommendations. His appeal was made at the Negro field day at the State Department of Agriculture's Coastal Plain Test Farm in connection with an all-day program devoted to farm exhibits, demonstration and field tours.

Reminding his listeners that they spend 11 cents out of every dollar for fertilizer, Coltrane deplored the fact that last year "3-8-3 fertilizer constituted 40 per cent of the total tonnage purchased by farmers, while this grade is not on the approved list of the Experiment Station for any crop." He called 3-8-3 a relic of the horse and buggy days and said "Farmers can save \$12 of every \$100 they

spend for fertilizer by insisting upon a grade with 20 units of plant food instead of a 15-unit fertilizer such as 3-8-3.

Coltrane also advocated reduction in the total number of grades of fertilizer manufactured for the farmer. He said that while there are 202 different grades in the State, 90 per cent of the total fertilizer sold last year was of 13 grades.

Dr. Charles Dearing, assistant director in charge of the test farm delivered the address of welcome and conducted the Negro farm agents and docters over the test plots, emphasizing strawberry culture and possibilities of new berry varieties developed at the farm. Soybean work and research in small fruits also was explained.

## 'LEAN MEAT FOR TENANT FARMER'

They Must Have It, Says  
Doctor, Calling Pellagra

'National Disgrace'  
10-15-38

By United Press.

DURHAM, N. C., Oct. 15.—The common Southern disease of pellagra is "little short of a national disgrace," Dr. William Henry Sarell, of Washington, D. C., declared yesterday.

Dr. Sarell spoke in pellagra to 500 physicians attending the three-day medical symposium sponsored by Duke University in connection with its centennial celebration. His address was one of a series of nine dealing with diseases prevalent in the South.

"It is to prevention rather than treatment of the disease that we should primarily devote our attention," he said.

"Every tenant farmer must have lean meat, vegetables and milk available for his family. The cheapest way to accomplish this is for him to produce most of his own food."

Physicians differed sharply after hearing the question of specialized medicine discussed last night by three members of their own profession.

Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of The Journal of the American Medical Assn., led the attack on group medical care, declaring that "social experimentation in the field of medi-

cine may temporarily inhibit progress by destroying individual initiative and the stimulus to new discovery."

Dr. John P. Peters of Yale University medical school said the demand for reorganization of medical services has arisen "partly from a general awakening of social self-consciousness in the nation, hastened by the depression; but more from a feeling that in the field of health the potentialities for betterment are greater and more immediately exploitable than they are in any other field of social service."

Washington, N. C., Progress

October 6, 1938

## Negro Farmers Group Offerings For Better Prices

Graham, Oct. 6.—A plan for boosting the price of their tobacco on warehouse floors has been adopted by a group of Alamance county Negro farmers, said J. W. Jeffries, Negro farm agent of the State College Extension Service. These farmers, he said, have produced superior leaf, and they will market it together, grouping their individual offerings together on the warehouse floor. Specified sales days for these farmers will be set from time to time.

They believe that when the buyers see a fairly large quantity of good quality leaf together, a higher price will be offered than if the tobacco were mixed with various grades scattered over the warehouse.

Jeffries said this group of 14 growers are taking pains to grade their weed carefully before marketing it, so that only really high quality tobacco will be offered in the group sales. Inferior tobacco will be sold at other times.

This policy is in keeping with the marketing methods advocated by the Extension Service and marketing specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Jeffries continued. Buyers bid higher in order to get baskets of well graded leaf, and good grading also enables the grower to get the highest price that is paid for each grade he has to sell.

Elizabethton, N. C., Journal  
November 3, 1938

## Better Farmer's Club Organized

The Negro farmers of Kelly met recently to organize a Better Farmer's club. At the first meeting 11 farmers were present. The following officers were elected: Charlie Brown, president; George Henry vice president; Richard Stringfield secretary; W. D. Johnson, assistant secretary; Abraham Kieth, treasurer; Starling Henry, chairman of program of work committee; and G. C. Baughman, adviser.

A tentative program of work for the year is: Harvesting, grading and curing sweet potatoes, converting a tobacco barn into a potato curing house, value and importance of winter legumes and cover crops, controlling weevils in corn, controlling insects and disease of fruit trees, planning and planting the home orchard, pruning the home orchard, the selection of a site and the preparation of the soil for a tobacco bed, balancing the farm program, farm outlook for 1939, preparation of pork on the farm, planting the spring garden, home mixing of fertilizers, care of baby chicks, controlling insects and diseases of corn, controlling insects and diseases of fruit trees, fertilizing and transplanting tobacco, vaccinating hogs for cholera, controlling insects of tobacco, value and importance of purebred hogs, controlling garden insects.

Much interest has been shown by the farmers in this community during the meetings. The outstanding project of today is converting a tobacco barn into a potato curing house for the community. This project alone will save the people much money, because from a recent survey it was found that nearly 30 per cent of the yams rotted yearly due to carelessness in handling and improper storing methods. Sweet potatoes are not commercially important in this community, but they have a wonderful possibility of becoming an outstanding cash enterprise.—Correspondence



Rocky Mount, N. C., Weekly News  
November 25, 1938

## LESPEDA ZA SAVES FARMERS' MONEY

**Alamance Negro Farmers Now  
Supply Their Own Feed Crops  
By Planting Cover Crops**

Graham, Nov. 21.—Negro farmers of Alamance County long have generously supported the hay merchants of Burlington and Mebane. Now they are learning to grow lespedeza on their farms and vastly reducing their feed bills, reports J. W. Jeffries, Negro county agent of the State College extension service.

S. E. Walker, a Burlington merchant, recently said: "I used to make a good living selling hay to the Negro farmers in Alamance county, but since they have learned about lespedeza, it has virtually ruined our hay business."

Agent Jeffries says Negro farmers are planting large acreages of small grain and winter cover crops. He calls lespedeza the salvation of his people. Other illustrations of the progressiveness of Negro farmers in this county are reports by Jeffries on corn yields and prizes won at the recent Mebane Six Counties Fair.

J. H. Wilson of Route 1, Haw River harvested 64.1 bushels of corn from one acre and E. A. Garner of Route 3, Snow Camp, made a yield of 60.2 bushels per acre, much larger than he had last year.

A total of \$125 in awards was presented Negroes of Alamance County for Live-At-Home exhibits at the Mebane Fair. Mrs. Dorothy Worth of the Melville community won first prize of \$50. Second award of \$35 went to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Rogers of the Hawfield community. John H. Wilson received \$25 and John Williamson \$15. The two \$10 prizes in this department went to Samuel Trice and Will Oliver of Orange county.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Weekly News  
October 7, 1938

## NEGRO FARMERS BUY FEWER CARS

**County Agent Says They See  
Advantage of Buying Farm  
Equipment Instead**

Winton, Oct. 3.—Hertford County Negro farmers are buying fewer old,

second-hand automobiles "that mean only trouble," W. C. Davenport, Negro use of the machine or animal as ported today.

Within the last year or two, he said, a number of the Negro farmers saved their money to buy farming equipment and things for the home they really needed. This raised their standard of living by improving their home life and by increasing their farm income.

Others who put their money into rattle-trap cars not only spent the money they had on the cars, but were kept constantly in debt trying to operate the automobiles.

But as various farmers saw the wisdom of their neighbors in investing money in things that would aid them on the farm and in the home, Davenport continued, they too began to save money for "these more worthwhile things."

Among the things they have bought are: peanut harvesting machines, potato diggers, fertilizer drills, corn and small grain planters, manure spreaders, high grade cows and hogs, good mules, cream separators, steam pressure canners, stoves, chairs, tables, beds, rugs, books, newspapers, magazines, and better lamps.

In some cases, where one farmer felt unable to buy a large machine or a purebred bull, several neighbors pooled their funds to make the purchase, and then agreed to get the use of the machine or animal as they need it.



Agriculture - 1938  
Condition of

Columbia, S. C. State  
September 22, 1938

# Carolina Gold Rice Staging Comeback at Willtown Bluff

Quart of Seed Preserved on Georgetown Plantation Saves From Extinction Famous Food Staple of State, Formerly Grown in Quantities on Coast

By Harry Hampton

In the halcyon days when coastal fields. The Carolina gold rice possesses a distinct reddish gold hue while the other grain still waves ap- the fields along its fresh water tidal proximately, green, though by the rivers waved and rippled in the wind, time of its harvest, a little later than glinted and glowed in the sun with that of the Carolina gold, it will take a rich, golden-yellow grain. This was on a straw colored hue.

Even with the imported seed, Will- Carolina gold rice. With the storm of 1911 all remain- town Bluff rice has been gradually ing rice field banks in South Caro- building up a reputation for itself, lina went out, and with it all trace and is now under a year-round de- of the once famous Carolina gold rice mand by Charleston grocers, and is said by epicures to be far better than at least so it was thought for a long said by epicures to be far better than the ordinary "store-bought" rice ob- time.

But now, Carolina gold rice is on tainable in this state. And within the next year or two the way back, springing from "about a quart" of seed that somehow was rice eaters may be able to digest the salvaged from the wreck of 1911 on original Carolina gold rice, which al- saved from the Wedge plantation near George- ways demanded a premium in the town. markets because of its superior quality.

The seed was kept alive on this quality. estate and more recently it has been distributed for seed purposes to other growers.

In the old rice planting days one of the largest rice plantations—or series of plantations—on the Edisto or Pon Pon, were operated by the late Samuel G. FitzSimons in the fields about Willtown Bluff and Will- town Bluff rice has long been a by- word for a high grade of Carolina gold.

Today, if no storms interfere, four acres of Carolina gold rice momen- tarily await the scythes of the reap- ers which are expected to fall Mon- day morning, October 3. The grain from these four acres, which the fore- man says will harvest close to 60 bushels to the acre, will be used for seed for the remainder of the 70-odd acres now under rice cultivation at Willtown Bluff, about two and a half bushels of seed being planted to the acre.

Rice growing at this historic planta- tion was revived several years ago by Mrs. Arthur Whitney on a share- crop basis, as a means of helping the Negroes of the neighborhood, the rice being planted under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Allston of Yonges Island, the latter being a daughter of Mr. FitzSimons. At the time this revival was started no Caro- lina gold rice was thought to be in existence, so the closet available sub- stitute was obtained, a Louisiana rice. The reason for the name Carolina gold, besides the possible connection with wealth, is plainly seen as the

Bamberg, S. C. Times  
November 24, 1938

## BAMBERG FARMERS' CONFERENCE IS LARGELY ATTENDED

Main Address by Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown.

The Louise Lawrence Memorial An- ditorium was decorated with exhibits from all over Bamberg county on Fri- day, November 18th. A large number of farmers attended the morning dis- cussions, which were led by J. D. Marshall, County Agent. The subjects discussed were: Poultry Raising, Hog Raising, Grain Farming, and Cot- ton Control.

At noon the farmers were conducted to the Voorhees dining hall, where a delightful lunch was served.

The conference reassembled at 2:45. Principal J. E. Blanton, who is also President of the Farmers' Conference presiding. He introduced Mr. J. D. Marshall, County Agent, who in turn

presented Mrs. H. H. Pearson, from raised on the farm of William Ray. Claflin College. Mrs. Pearson repre- which included eight things now grow- sented the Sunlight Club of the South- bing in his garden and on his farm. Carolina Women's Federation. Mrs. The following officers were elected Pearson welcomed Dr. Charlotte Haw- to serve the Farmers' Conference of kins Brown, the speaker of the day 1939: President, J. E. Blanton. County Principal Blanton then presented the Agent, J. D. Marshall; Associate speaker, reviewing the wonderful work Agent, M. B. Logan; Secretary, Mrs. done by Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown Isabella Clifton; Treasurer and Asso- of Palmer Memorial Institute, Sedalia ciate President, Thomas Sanders, North Carolina, mentioning particular The following Associate Presidents ly the fact that she left the North and elected were: Lottie Sease for the Ehr- came South to make her contribution hardt District, W. H. Mearse and C. L. to the education of her race. Dr. Edwards for Clear Pond, Isreal Kink- Brown spoke for one hour on the sub- land, Poplar Grove; Henry L. Davis, ject "Iron Chariots Which Block the Midway; B. L. Curry, Briar Creek; Way of the Negro, particularly the Henry Barnwell, Holman's Bridge; Negro Farmer." Her message was full Mrs. Shelia Richburg; Allen Jordan. of hope and cheer. Dr. Brown held up Denmark; P. Brunson, Spring Branch; to the Negro farmer the standards of G. W. Nimmons, Line School and truth, square dealing and industry as Govan; L. Dowling, Eden; Pink Mc- the ultimate goals to which the Negro Millon, George Carver. should strive.

Others appearing on the program were, Miss Hurd, Rev. Dr. Nix, Mr. H. E. Daniels and President M. F. Whit- taker, all of State College. Among other prominent visitors present were, Prof. Reddish of Blackville, Mrs. Susan Bailey, Jeanes Supervisor of Barnwell county; Dr. J. D. Dixon of Barnwell, Mrs. T. L. Duckett and daughter from Columbia, and a large number of other prominent people from all over Bamberg county. There were perhaps 300 Voorhees students present to hear the discussions, and of course, quite a number of students from other schools in the county and from Barnwell county.

One of the outstanding features of the Conference was the quality of the exhibits. The Voorhees school had a splendid exhibit, and the thing that made the exhibit stand out, aside from the farm products was the boar, two and a half years old which weighs over 600 pounds. The cured hams, carrots, potatoes, oats, canned goods and sugar cane brought by the farmers of Bamberg County and their wives made a splendid appearance of farm pro- ducts. Another highlight of the ex- hibits was the display of vegetables

presented Mrs. H. H. Pearson, from raised on the farm of William Ray. Claflin College. Mrs. Pearson repre- which included eight things now grow- sented the Sunlight Club of the South- bing in his garden and on his farm. Carolina Women's Federation. Mrs. The following officers were elected Pearson welcomed Dr. Charlotte Haw- to serve the Farmers' Conference of kins Brown, the speaker of the day 1939: President, J. E. Blanton. County Principal Blanton then presented the Agent, J. D. Marshall; Associate speaker, reviewing the wonderful work Agent, M. B. Logan; Secretary, Mrs. done by Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown Isabella Clifton; Treasurer and Asso- of Palmer Memorial Institute, Sedalia ciate President, Thomas Sanders, North Carolina, mentioning particular The following Associate Presidents ly the fact that she left the North and elected were: Lottie Sease for the Ehr- came South to make her contribution hardt District, W. H. Mearse and C. L. to the education of her race. Dr. Edwards for Clear Pond, Isreal Kink- Brown spoke for one hour on the sub- land, Poplar Grove; Henry L. Davis, ject "Iron Chariots Which Block the Midway; B. L. Curry, Briar Creek; Way of the Negro, particularly the Henry Barnwell, Holman's Bridge; Negro Farmer." Her message was full Mrs. Shelia Richburg; Allen Jordan. of hope and cheer. Dr. Brown held up Denmark; P. Brunson, Spring Branch; to the Negro farmer the standards of G. W. Nimmons, Line School and truth, square dealing and industry as Govan; L. Dowling, Eden; Pink Mc- the ultimate goals to which the Negro Millon, George Carver. should strive.

## Negro Men And Women Meet Lincoln Hi Nov. 12

The Negro Farm men and women of Sumter county met at Lincoln high school Saturday, November 12, 1938. This was a high day for the farmers, especially the women, as this day was set aside to exhibit the out- standing work done this year in can- ning fruits and the non-acid vege- tables. The results show that the farm women are keeping pace with the Live at Home Program. Twenty- five communities were represented. Of the 25 communities, 218 women and 4-H club girls exhibited their products. Twenty-six prizes will be given to the following women and 4-H club girls:

For Fruits: Edith Leanue, first; Clara Wilson, second; M. J. Jackson, third; Jessie Mae Bass, fourth; Louise Rouse, fifth; Pink Scrivens, sixth; Vernell James, seventh; Eliza Wil- liams, eighth; Lizzie Ramsey, ninth; Josephene Shular, tenth; Anita Brown, eleventh, Thomasena Wright, twelfth; Annie Cook, thirteenth.

For Vegetables: Lou Ethel Choice, 1st; Manda Moses, 2nd; Helena Dor- gan, 3rd; Lillie Moses, 4th; Cather- ine Gass, 5th; Lillie Cleckley, 6th; W. O. Curray, 7th; Esther Rouse, 8th;

Lizzie Efferson, 9th; Alice James, 10th; Lou Alice Sanders, 11th; Viola Alexander, 12th; Louise Gardiner, 13th. These prizes will be awarded by the Ball Jar Bros., Co.

The County Council of Farm Men and Women also held their regular meeting. The meeting opened with reports from the community leaders, and their plans for another year. The speakers for the occasion includ- ed Prof. C. A. Lawson, principal of Lincoln high school; Mrs. I. H. Ged- dis, county supervisor of the rural schools; Mrs. Ester Breeze, county T. B. worker; and Mrs. Marian B. Paul, state supervisor of home demon- stration work. All who heard these speakers were greatly inspired. The Council was partially reorgan- ized, and will complete its reorgani- zation in January.

The meeting closed with remarks from the Negro Farm and Home Agents.

Laurens, S. C. Advertiser  
November 17, 1938

## TO EXPLAIN CROP PLAN TO FARMERS

Series of Meetings Over the County  
Scheduled to be Held From Nov.  
23 Through Nov. 28. D. W.  
Watkins Speaks Here

A series of farmer meetings for the purpose of explaining the 1938-39 crop program will get under way next Wednesday, November 23, when D. W. Watkins, director of Clemson college extension service, speaks at a meeting at 10 a. m. in the court house here, Farm Agent C. B. Can- non announced yesterday.

Continuing through November 28, the county agent and his assistant will hold 10 other meetings over the county. They have urged that all farmers, both white and colored, at- tend at least one of the meetings.

In addition to the morning meeting in the court house, on November 23 discussions will be at Cross Hill high school (whites only), 3 p. m., Cross Hill colored school, 4:30 p. m., Mt. Zion colored school, 7 p. m.

On November 25 meetings will be at Clinton high school, 10 a. m., Youngs school house, 2:30 p. m., Center Point school house, 7 p. m. On



November 26 the meeting will be at Sandy Springs school house at 10 a. m., while those scheduled for November 28 are at Hickory Tavern high school, 10 a. m., Gray Court-Owings high school, 3 p. m., Mt. Carmel colored school, 7 p. m.

Newberry S. C. Observer  
November 29, 1938

## Newberry Hears Watkins Speak On A. A. A. Program

Large Number of Farmers At-  
tend Meeting at Court  
House Last Wednesday Af-  
ternoon.

According to G. J. Mobley, as-  
sistant county agent, about 300  
white and 50 negro farmers heard  
D. W. Watkins of Clemson College  
here Wednesday afternoon on the  
next year's Agricultural Program.  
Although not painting any too  
rosy a picture for increased prices  
of cotton, Mr. Watkins suggested a  
sweet potatoes, dairying, grain and  
legume seed.

The large amount of cotton to-  
day is attributable to increase in  
yields per acre, the production of a  
better quality of cotton and not  
much money in foreign countries  
the speaker said. He hoped the  
farmers could feel their way to a  
better system realizing that there  
will be no Moses in the bush to  
lead them.

J. F. Hawkins was elected Coun-  
ty delegate to represent Newberry  
County on the State Farm Council.

Laurens, S. C., Advertiser  
December 15, 1938

## FARMERS TO NAME 27 COMMITTEEMEN

Meetings to be Held in Various Town-  
ships on December 19 and 20.

Cannon Announces  
Schedule

Farmers in the various townships  
will meet on December 19 and 20 to  
select community committeemen to  
represent them during the execution  
of the 1938 crop program, it was an-  
nounced yesterday from the office of  
the county agent.

All farmers producing cotton in  
1938 are eligible to attend the meet-  
ings and cast their ballot, Cannon

said, stating that the various meet-  
ings will be conducted by himself, T.  
A. Stallworth, assistant county agent,  
and H. A. Ropp, county administra-  
tive agent, assisted by the community  
and county committeemen.

The committeemen, three of whom  
will be selected in each township, are  
charged with the measuring of land  
under the AAA control measures,  
Cannon said, the chairman of each  
township committee serving at times  
with the county committee.

The meeting schedule as announced  
by the county agent's office follows:

Dec. 19, 3 p. m., Cross Hill town-  
ship, Cross Hill high school (whites);  
4 p. m., Cross Hill township, Cross  
Hill colored school (colored); 7 p. m.,  
Waterloo township, Center Point  
school.

Dec. 20, 9:30 a. m., Laurens town-  
ship, Agricultural building; 11 a. m.,  
Jacks and Hunter townships, Clinton  
high school; 1:30 p. m., Sullivan town-  
ship, Hickory Tavern school; 3 p. m.,  
Dials township, Gray Court-Owings  
high school; 3 p. m., Youngs town-  
ship, Youngs school; 3 p. m., Scuffle-  
town township, Sandy Springs school.



## Condition of Letters To The Editor

### VIEWS OF A RENTER

To The Commercial Appeal:

I am a farmer, just a renter. I have never owned any land, have never owned much of this world's goods. I am acquainted with the poorer class of people, have visited several states and have cooperated with the Government in all the crop cuts and plans so far. I have heard the new plan for 1938 discussed; every plan that has been yet has been against the sharecropper and small renter. The 1938 plan is against the sharecropper and small renter because the new plan says for the landlord to give the little man his part of the Government rent and the landlord is not pleased with the plan and is not going to let it go through if possible, and he will show the Government he does not approve of it by telling the sharecropper and small renter he has no land for him, that he is going to have his land worked by day labor. I have heard them say they do not aim for the little man to have any of the Government rent. And they put the poorer man on the road hunting for a crop or job of some kind and fail to find it.

Our authorities started out five years ago to balance the budget and it is further unbalanced today than then. Five years ago we bought 24 pounds of flour for 45 to 60 cents, cotton seed shortening, \$2.75 to \$3, 45 pounds, meat 5 to 8 cents per pound, overalls 60 to 75 cents a pair and sold cotton 4 to 6 cents. Our 1937 cotton crop sold 4 to 9 cents per pound, meat 20 to 30 cents, lard 12½ to 16 cents, flour 90 cents to \$1.25 per 24 pounds, overalls \$1 and over per pair, and everything else in proportion. Where is any balance to that? There is a balance, but the poor man sure does not get any benefit out of it.

I fear our President and senators and agricultural heads never associate with any but millionaires. If they would leave the grand highways and large cities and visit the rural districts and see the millions of poor people who live in little huts and shacks that have nothing but the ground for a floor, no wall, but some little old poles laid up, and see the little old tents the poor live in and the millions of men, women and children who do not have a change of clothes and what few they do have are rags and tags, I believe it would stir them to try to help the poor.

I know lots of people who cannot attend church because they cannot dress sufficiently. They have no

work sufficient to feed and clothe themselves, because of oppression. If our Government wants to help the poor people, why not buy up the land from the big landowner, cut it up in farms to suit the family and sell to the poor at reasonable prices and terms where they can buy? Then they will be doing some good, the only plan that will suffice. The Lord help them see it.

H. C. FINLEY.

Burlison Tenn. Route 1

### PAGES JIM MOORE

To The Commercial Appeal:

We noted with some interest and much disappointment your publication yesterday of the deeply branded marks of ignorance displayed over the name of one claiming to be Jim Moore and giving Union City as his address.

This lengthy letter condemned all sharecroppers; the writer apparently assumed his own infallibility of judgment.

Permit me first to advise that the Union City postoffice does not know Jim Moore, either in Union City or on any rural routes.

Also, the Obion County trustee's office advises that they have no property listed for Jim Moore in or near Union City; they list the property of only one man in the entire county who might fit this name, that property owner living and holding property in the extreme edge of the county and receiving mail from an out-of-the-county postoffice.

Sometime ago you rather "cleverly" disseminated to your many readers an unfair charge against the integrity of all Obion County farmers; it so happened we find that one anonymous S. Jones has yet to reveal his identity or attempt to substantiate his charges against certain Obion County farmers.

Concerning the charges you so boldly assist to spread by publishing this letter under double-column head yesterday: This mighty judge of men places all croppers in one category—stealers, he says, cheats, well-versed in law for the purpose of beating only landowners, ignorant, good spenders, poor cooks, vicious dishonest, with no sense of appreciation, etc., etc., and etc.

Certainly all sharecroppers are not heaven bound just yet. I might be suspected, though, from what we see around, that no other entire class is assured of a full hundred per cent reunion inside the pearly gates.

Jim Moore assumes all croppers

and sharecroppers to be guilty; he apparently would declare all landowners, preachers and business men to be approved by Him who is supreme in all dealings; he believes that Jim Moore's mind is much nearer balanced than do we readers.

If Jim Moore is a landowner, we invite him to state whether he ever used sharecroppers; or if he still uses them. If he is not a property owner, we wonder how he happens to be so well versed.

If Jim Moore used sharecroppers on his farm heretofore, but has "changed his method of farming" since 1933 and discontinued the custom of using sharecroppers we invite his justification for such change. It is generally known and admitted that certain landowners (not all) have reduced or entirely eliminated sharecroppers since advent of the AAA and ACP farm programs, for purposes of retaining the cropper's share of the United States Treasury payments.

John Stuart Mills once said "Any opinion may, for aught we can certainly know, be true. To deny this is to assume our own infallibility."

Apparently Jim Moore disagrees with that well-known economist-writer.

WOODROW W. EMERY.

Union City, Tenn.

## MEMPHIS COTTON PICKERS ARE BUYING GROCERIES IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS WHERE THEY ARE WORKING

By JAMES H. PURDY, Jr.  
Special Correspondent

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Oct. 13—

The city of Memphis recently passed a grocery ordinance that requires the groceries to open at a certain hour daily and close at an early hour. The stipulated hour is from 7 A. M. till 7 P. M., except on Saturday when the groceries remain open until 9 P. M., but they are to close at 1 P. M. on each Wednesday.

It has been estimated that there are about 15,000 Memphis Negroes that are going to and fro to the cotton fields and are being paid nightly for their labors of picking cotton. They leave before daylight and return long past dark. The new city ordinance against grocers renders it an impossibility for them to purchase food stuff before leaving for the cotton fields and there are no groceries open when they return. They are forced to buy their foodstuff in the rural districts and oftentimes paying a much greater market price than they would have to pay at home.

## FARMERS GIVEN LESSON IN LIFE

Since the start of the F. S. A.'s rehabilitation program in the state of Tennessee, vast improvements have been made in farm life and methods.

MEMPHIS, Oct. 13—How Negro farmers and citizens can live under the Bankhead-Jones Act was demonstrated to them the other day when they met with noted vocational teachers here in the Federal Building. Heading the program was Mr. L. H. Bolton who was well pleased with the methods and rules laid out for Negro workers. It has been learned that many Negro teachers will work with the farmers to produce worthwhile results.

There are many Negro farmers who are in great need of such a program, and it will be of great help to those who are planning to own farms. This will serve somewhat as a stepping stone for the progress of Negro farmers and landowners.

Present with Mr. Bolton were: Earl Sargent, tenant and purchase specialist for Tennessee; M. M. Reed, state administrative supervisor. Mrs. Eva Pomery, assistant administrative junior supervisor.



# Agriculture - 1938

## Condition of

South Boston, Va. Gazette  
September 1, 1938

## COLORED CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE

Will Take Important Part in The  
Episode, "Tobacco Curing Time"  
at The Tobacco Festival.

Other than the Coronation Ball and the Harvest Ball for the white people during the festival, the colored people will have a dance of their own on Friday night at 10:30 o'clock in the Booker T. Washington High School. Featuring this dance will be the famous Gene Jones and his Cotton Pickers. This swing and sweet band has just completed an extended engagement at the Ambassador Night Club in Los Angeles, Cal., and comes to South Boston rated as one of the outstanding bands in the nation. It is fully expected by those in charge, Dr. Leon Ragland and Dr. I. J. McGuffin and their helpers that 1,000 persons from a large surrounding area will attend this, the greatest colored dance ever held in Southside Virginia.

The committee is working hard for a large attendance and present indications are that they will be successful. Many breakfast parties will follow the dance, which will close about 4 A. M.

One of the most interesting episodes of "Salute to Tobacco," dramatic spectacle of the fourth Annual National Tobacco Festival, will be "Tobacco Curing Time," in which the colored people of South Boston will participate.

Episodes similar to the one included in this year's show have been important elements in the dramatic spectacles presented at each of the preceding Festivals and on each occasion they have received loud praise for their performance.

Furnishing the vocal talent will be the "Jubilee Singers," a group which has won a lasting reputation in the South for its unique and beautiful renditions of folk songs.

Among the songs which are original with the group and which have drawn much favorable comment is "Drinking of the Wine," which will

be repeated in this year's production by special request.

For the Queen's Military Review, to be held on Thursday afternoon, South Boston's colored populace will furnish the state champion colored Drum and Bugle Corps, an organization which is making a bid to become the finest musical unit of its kind in the entire South.

Richmond, Va. Times Dispatch  
November 13, 1938

## Dr. Garnett Pessimistic As to Negroes

CHARLOTTESVILLE, (AP)—Many forces are at work tending to put the Negro farmer at a comparative disadvantage and making it questionable whether the younger generation should be urged to continue on the land, Dr. W. E. Garnett, rural sociologist of the Virginia Tech Agricultural Experiment Station, Blacksburg, told the Negro Organization Society in its annual meeting.

Other conclusions drawn by Dr. Garnett and Charles G. Burr in their study of "Some Aspects of Human Erosion Among Virginia Negro Farmers" included:

**Human Erosion Seen**  
Migration of those with most initiative and the disproportionate size of families of the most shiftless type, together with low incomes and unfavorable home surroundings and community life, is producing much human erosion among Negro farmers.

In the last quarter of a century there has been in Virginia a sharp decline in the number of Negro farmers and in Negro land ownership.

The younger generation, succeeding those who bought land, display much less interest in acquiring land ownership.

"Society can ill afford to allow so much human erosion," Dr. Garnett said. "Such erosion involves heavy human losses, which is also bad for business. There appears to be a gradually growing consciousness on the part of society that something must be done about this problem, and that something must be done

about this problem, and that the disadvantaged man, both black and white, must be given a better chance.

**Whites Also Affected**  
At another point the sociologist observed that "the marginal whites have as unfavorable living conditions as the Negroes. In many ways the Negroes are making better progress than the marginal whites."

As for possible solutions, Dr. Garnett said, "much depends on recovery trends."

More than 500 delegates came from all parts of the State, representing county-wide leagues, community leagues and other educational, religious and social organizations. The Rev. M. E. Davis of Portsmouth presided. The sessions lasted three days, ending Friday night.

Virginia

Roanoke, Va., World News  
November 11, 1938

## V. P. I. Sociologist Describes Handicaps of Negro Farmers

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Nov. 11 (AP).—Many forces are at work tending to put the negro farmer at a comparative disadvantage and making it questionable whether the younger generation should be urged to continue on the land, Dr. W. E. Garnett, rural sociologist of the Virginia Tech agricultural experiment station, Blacksburg, today told the Negro Organization society.

"However, the outlook for better alternatives is also questionable," Dr. Garnett told the society at a meeting here.

Other conclusions drawn by Dr. Garnett and Charles G. Burr in their study of "Some Aspects of Human Erosion Among Virginia Negro Farmers" included:

Migration of those with most initiative and the disproportionate size of families of the more shiftless type, together with low incomes and unfavorable home surroundings and community life, is producing much human erosion among negro farmers.

**Ownership Declines**  
In the last quarter of a century there has been in Virginia a sharp decline in the number of negro farmers and in negro land ownership.

The younger generation, succeeding those who bought land, display much less interest in acquiring land ownership.

"Society can ill afford to allow so much human erosion," Dr. Garnett said. "Such erosion involves heavy human losses, which is also bad for business. There appears to be a gradually growing consciousness on the part of society that something must be done about this problem, and that the disadvantaged man, both black and white, must be given a better chance."

"If erosion producing conditions are to be eliminated, along with increasing help by society there must be a continuation on the part of each individual of the fundamental virtues of the forefathers—industry, thrift and dependability."

At another point the sociologist observed that "the marginal whites have as unfavorable living conditions as the negroes. In many ways the negroes are making better progress than the marginal whites."

As for possible solutions, Dr. Garnett said, "much depends on recovery trends."

"The record appears to indicate that during the years of the country's prosperity cash incomes were higher in urban occupations than on farms. When the differences in cost of living are taken into account the differences are not so great as would at first appear. However, urban living standards in many respects seem to have been somewhat superior."

**Agencies Lend Aid**  
"On the other hand the depression has proved that with all of its shortcomings country life after all has advantages. . . . There are a number of agencies now in the field to help the negro farmer make a better success."

"The rapidly increasing number of high school and college graduates makes the problem of occupational outlets in keeping with their increased training and ability an ever more pressing problem."

After the abolition of slavery, Dr. Garnett said, the more ambitious negroes began to acquire land, aided subsequently by income from work off the farm and by remittances from children working off the farm. But these advances were made under heavy handicaps.

"All too frequently the land bought by negroes was thin and worn out, the poorest and most undesirable of a section. Usually ignorant of the best farming practices and without capital for land improvement or for proper equipment, it was frequently impossible for the negro farmer to make a living from his land. This was especially true of the large percentage with small holdings. And for the most part the negro farms have been too small for efficiency."



## 645,000 Negro Farmers Reap AAA Benefits

*Future*  
Increase Income, Says Director In Church Speech *10-27-38*

"The Government's agricultural programs have taught many of us to have a better realization of the contribution that Negro farmers have made to southern agriculture," said I. W. Duggan, Director, Southern Division, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C., in an address last Sunday to an audience at Mt. Pisgah M. E. Church, 40th and Locust streets.

Dr. Duggan, who administers the AAA program in the nine cotton states where there are 645,000 Negro farmers, discussed the purposes and objectives of the various congressional enactments designed to increase the farmers' income and conserve the soil.

"Better standards of living, better housing, better schools, more attractive community life, more recreational facilities, better tenant-owner relations, the opportunity to own land—these things follow naturally when the income of farmers can be raised to a level that is far in comparison with that of the rest of the nation," continued the speaker.

"The South cannot progress until all its people progress, whether they are landowners or tenants, white and colored. The need for conservation of human resources is just as great as the need for conservation of soil and resources," he said.

The meeting was under the auspices of the Mt. Pisgah Forum, established four years ago and of which Emanuel C. Wright is the president. The program included invocation by the pastor, Rev. E. K. Nichols, musical numbers by Joshua Sadler, Norman Lee, Mrs. Hazel Stokes-Currie and Mrs. Florence G. Holliday, and brief remarks by A. L. Holsey, Field Officer, AAA, Tuskegee Institute, who accompanied Dr. Dugan. Herbert T. Miller, executive secretary, Christian Street Branch, YMCA, presided.

## ARK. FARMERS MEET WITH AAA OFFICIALS

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Nov. 23—(ANP)—"Negro farmers of Arkansas will be fully informed with respect to the referendum on cotton marketing quotas when they vote on Dec. 10," said I. W. Ray, Negro district extension agent, in commenting upon the three educational meetings which were held in the state last week.

These meetings were held in Forrest City, Pine Bluff and Eldorado and brought together extension workers and farm leaders in the surrounding territory. Representatives from the Washington office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and state AAA and extension officials led the discussion on such phases of the cotton situation as are reflected in surpluses, income, tariffs and foreign competition.

### Show Productivity Increase

J. L. Wright, assistant state AAA administrator, stated that Arkansas farmers have received \$12,000,000 more for cotton produced on 783,000 fewer acres since the AAA had been in operation. During the same period there has been an increase of 215,000 in cattle and 174,000 increase in hogs. E. A. Miller, assistant to the director, Southern Division, AAA, showed how the agricultural conservation program has assisted in lengthening school terms in the rural South as well as lifting living standards in rural homes.

Among those participating in the meetings were Lafayette Patterson, Administrative Assistant, AAA, and C. F. Clark, Agricultural Economist, AAA, of Washington; J. C. Barnett, supervisor, Ne-

gro Extension Work for Arkansas; James P. Davis; Head Field Officer, AAA, Little Rock; Theo. Bond, planter, Madison, Ark., and T. M. Campbell, supervisor Negro Extension Work and A. L. Holsey, Field Officer.

## "South Cannot Progress Unless All Its People Make Progress" Says Dr. Duggan

### Conservation of Human Resources Just as Important as Soil Sources

### Plans Added Consumption of Cotton

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—(ANP)—"The government's agricultural programs have taught many citizens to have a better realization of the contribution that Negro farmers have made to Southern agriculture," said I. W. Duggan, Director Southern Division, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C., in an address Sunday night to a Negro audience at Mt. Pisgah M. E. Church. Dr. Duggan, who administers the AAA program in the nine cotton states where there are 645,000 Negro farmers, discussed the purposes and objectives of the various congressional enactments designed to increase the farmers' income and conserve the soil.

"Better standards of living, better housing, better schools, more attractive community life, more recreational facilities, better tenant-owner relations, the opportunity to own land—these things follow naturally when the income of farmers can be raised to a level that is fair in comparison with that of the rest of the nation," said the speaker.

Concerning the recently announced program to increase the domestic consumption of cotton, Dr. Duggan stated that "it has long been a pitiable fact that the people who grow cotton often need clothing and other articles made from cotton more than any other group in the country," and "the AAA is trying to find means of increasing cotton consumption among all people, including the farmers, who

produce it. A committee has been set up in the department of agriculture to investigate the possibilities of a plan to subsidize the distribution of cotton products to low income families.

In concluding his address Dr. Duggan said that "the South cannot progress until all its people progress whether they are landowners or tenants, white or colored. The need for conservation of human resources is just as great as the need for conservation of soil resources."

The meeting was under the auspices of the Mt. Pisgah Forum which was established four years ago and of which Emanuel C. Wright, treasurer Citizens and Southern Bank, is the president.



# Agriculture - 1938

## Improvement of.

Clayton, Ala., Record  
February 4, 1938

### To The Negro Farmers of Barbour County

Dear Coworker:

In view of the anticipated cut in cotton acreage for 1938 it is very timely to begin looking about for new sources of farm income to supplement that which is to be taken away by the cotton acreage reduction.

On looking about for extra money, some one has said that it is better to make a dollar in the year than to get \$365.00 at the end of the year, as is true with our present cotton program. It is for this reason that we are recommending with greater emphasis the year round garden, the cow, and hen program for a better living in 1938.

In planning your year-round garden for this year, plan to grow all the vegetables the family uses, and a small surplus for your local market as a means of picking up a little extra change each week.

The family cow is indispensable. For the average family two good milch cows bred so that one is fresh in the spring and the other in the fall, if properly sheltered and fed will supply all the milk and butter needed the year round, and a surplus that may profitably be fed to the chickens in the form of skimmed milk and the sour cream above what is actually needed could be sold.

One good brood sow bringing two litters a year should supply meat for the family and a few shoats to sell for extra cash.

Fifty hens properly housed and fed will supply the family with all the eggs and chickens needed and a small surplus that could be sold for cash.

Corn is now selling for around fifty cents per bushel, but when fed to any or all of the above farm animals, will pay you \$1.00

per bushel. Let us use this means of marketing our surplus corn in 1938 for more profit and increase our income for the year.

The home orchard should not be over looked as it is most important. A dozen or so peach and apple trees properly pruned, sprayed and wormed, will supply an abundance of fruit which will make both better living and health. If you do not have an orchard, plant a dozen or two trees this month.

We are at present laying plans for a Curb Market in Eufaula, through which farmers of Barbour County will be able to sell a larger quantity of the above mentioned farm products. With your cooperation in the work outlined above we will be able to perfect this organization which will mean more cash in the hands of rural people. Will you help us to help you?

Yours for better living,  
H. D. King, Home Agent.  
J. T. Jarmon, County Agt.  
Huntsville, Ala. Times  
August 29, 1938

### NEGROES WILL VISIT EXPERIMENT STATION

All negro farmers in the county have been invited to visit experiment station at Belle Mina Wednesday, it was announced today by W. T. Gravitt, farm agent.

Those who plan to make the trip are requested by Gravitt to meet on West Holmes street at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning, and to bring their lunches which will be spread as a picnic at the station at noon.

Alabama

### Sears, Roebuck Underwriting Auburn Course For Farmers South Led By Alabama In Hog Marketing

Sixty alert and progressive farmers from as many counties in Alabama are enrolled this Summer at Auburn in a special training course sponsored by Sears, Roebuck and Company. The four-week course offers to the farmers fundamentals of scientific agriculture and ranges in age from 20 to 60. They are married, land-owning dirt farmers with at least a high school education, it was explained yesterday.

A thorough study course has been prepared for the Sears farmers' short course and the men are said to be showing much enthusiasm in the lectures and demonstration work. They are being housed in one of the dormitories of the college. The program calls for two tours of experiment stations in addition to the instructions received on the campus.

"This is rather a new experiment in which business and education have joined hands with the farmer by improving the agricultural picture in Alabama," Boyd H. Leyburn, manager of the local Sears, Roebuck Company store, explained. "It is believed that by selecting these men who are actually farming and giving them this special training, is the best possible way to reach directly to the farmer with our agricultural education," he added.

Officials at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute are said to be enthusiastic over the experiment launched by Sears, Roebuck and Company. Much good, they predict, will result from the movement. The farmers taking the course are expected to be in the position to better aid the agricultural agents in their counties in the organized farm program.

The sponsoring company was delighted that its special course attracted farmers in 60 of the 67 counties of the State. Montgomery's representative at the course is C. B. Moselev, of Hope Hull.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald  
August 29, 1938

NEGROES TO SEE STATION  
ATHENS, Ala., Aug. 28—Negroes Day will be observed Wednesday at the state agricultural substation in the southern part of this county, when Negro farmers of this and adjoining counties are invited to make an inspection and tour of the farm. A similar inspection tour for North Alabama white farmers took place recently.

State Ships Nearly  
Million Dollars  
Worth Yearly

By DONALD L. ROBERTSON  
AUBURN, ALA., Oct. 21.—Alabama

leads all Southern States in the marketing of hogs through farmer-owned cooperative associations, shipping close to \$1,000,000 worth each year, P. O. Davis, director of the Alabama Extension Service, announced here today. Figures show that Alabama is in the lead in cooperative action of farmers were received by Mr. Davis from a nationwide co-op survey conducted by the Farm Credit Administration.

As more land in Alabama has been planted to feed crops, there has been a natural increase in livestock production. In Alabama, the production of hogs has been steadily upward since 1935. As hogs increased, so did the recognition by farmers of the effectiveness of marketing their output through cooperative associations owned and fully controlled by themselves. As a result, the survey shows 18 co-ops marketing hogs, with a noticeable concentration of these associations in the southeastern corner of the State.

The data showing the expansion of cooperative livestock marketing, and other interesting facts on farm cooperation in Alabama were collected by the New Orleans Bank for Cooperatives in FCA unit, and following a procedure used in every State in the Union. Each association in the State was visited, and figures which have been compiled into a complete picture of Alabama cooperation were obtained through the preparation of exhaustive questionnaires.

As in most of the Southern States cotton is Alabama's biggest cooperative crop. There has been a marked falling off in the volume of co-op cotton since the survey figures were taken out in the 1936-37 season covered by the FCA study, cotton accounted for more than half of all the cooperative marketing done in the State. Five years previous to the survey, a total of 12 cooperatives were handling only

half of the volume routed in 1936-37 through the one association operating—the Statewide Alabama Cotton Cooperative Association. This is one of the more recently organized of the 15 large-scale cotton co-ops which market the South's cooperative cotton. It was formed in 1934.

Cotton gins operated on a cooperative basis, which until recently had been developed extensively only in Texas and Oklahoma, have taken root in Alabama. Three associations have been formed for the purpose of ginning members' cotton as growers have sought to cut expenses and gain more efficient service by organizing cooperatively.

Fruits and vegetables worth \$806,000 find their place on the Alabama cooperative list, with potatoes, handled by 13 co-ops, accounting for \$498,000 of the total. Strawberries worth \$152,000 were marketed by co-ops.

Poultry products marketed through co-ops were valued at \$159,000 and smaller amounts cream, wool, pecans and seed went through the co-ops.

In purchasing, a \$2,160,000 business in the survey year, fertilizer worth \$919,000 was bought by Alabama farmers. Florida is the only one of the Gulf States showing a higher figure in fertilizer buying. And only Texas outstrips Alabama among the Gulf States in the amount of feed sold cooperatively. Seeds worth \$428,000, more than were sold in any other Gulf State, figured in the Alabama purchasing list. Farm machinery, implements, flour, packing supplies and brood mares were also bought through their co-ops by the farmers of Alabama.

### NEGRO FARMER STATE PROBLEM

Bettering Conditions Is Aim  
Of New Campaign By  
Extension Group

DONALD L. ROBERTSON  
Approximately 100,000 of the 273,000 farmers of the state are Negroes. To raise the average per capita farm income in Alabama from the \$91 of last year there must, of necessity, be a bettering of living conditions and an increase in farm income on the Negro farms



of the state as well as the white farmers.

Recently Tuskegee Institute was host to all Negro extension workers of Alabama who met for four days with the specialists and staff of the Alabama Extension Service at Auburn. This was the first meeting of a new setup inaugurated by P. O. Davis, director of extension at Auburn, to bring Negro extension workers into closer coordination with white extension workers.

Assisting in the meeting was J. C. Ford, former county agent in Fayette County, appointed several weeks ago by Mr. Davis to coordinate the work of the white and Negro farm and home agents and to make it possible for more information of improved farm and home practices and the AAA to reach Negro farmers.

Alabama now has the most complete organization of Negro agricultural workers in the South, says T. M. Campbell, field agent in charge of Negro extension in the Southern states.

#### Aim To Aid Negroes

One of the outstanding programs outlined at the meeting was reaching more of Negro tenant farmers who make up the majority in the state. This program is not an attempt to make Negro tenant farmers owners of farms in a short time. In fact, Prof. Campbell says the program is to help the farmers meet the situation as it is and to work more with tenants to show them the value of better farming and improved living conditions. More and more landlords have seen the value of this and today are asking Negro workers to come in and assist farmers on the plantations.

Another outstanding development of the meeting is that in AAA work, in home improvement, and in all other work in the county. Negro agents will work in close cooperation with the county and home agent in developing a program of agriculture for the county. There are 28 men agents, 28 women agents, seven supervisors and two part-time workers in the state Negro organization. Each worker is trying to improve the condition of the Negro farmers of Alabama and is working with educational and agricultural agencies of both white and Negro people to accomplish this result.

#### Broad Program

Encouraging use of native material, making Negro tenants more interested in improving their homes and farming, putting all help of the Alabama Extension Service and the Negro extension service at the disposal of Negroes, and maintaining the good will of the white landlords, is no small program of work developed. In addition, there is the program of better rural housing on which Tuskegee Institute is working with the Negro extension workers.

Tuskegee Institute, headed by Dr. T. M. Patterson, Selma University and Alabama Normal, directed by Dr. W. L. Dinkins, and Dr. J. F. Drake, respectively, are all interested in seeing that Negro farmers receive as much help as possible in

the way of AAA information and other home and farm improvement help.

Negro farmers should enjoy better conditions, and will in the future, if one is to judge the work being done in the state. Mr. Davis foresees a period of better Negro living conditions, better and more prosperous farmers, and a better income average for the entire state as a result of the work being done with Negro farm families.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. NEWS

NOV. 27, 1938

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Of New Campaign By  
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Talladega, Ala., Mountain Home

NOV. 28, 1938

MANY USES FOR

COTTON ARE CITED

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—Great opportunities for increased use of cotton products on Southern farms was stressed here the other day by I. W. Duggan, director of the Southern division of the Agricultural Administration, speaking before the 48th annual Negro Farmers Conference.

Mr. Duggan pointed out that many farm families were without cotton mattresses, window curtains, bedding and clothing. He also said that many principles of the Farm Security Administration and the AAA were the principles of Booker T. Washington and urged Negro farmers to take his advice and "cast down your bucket where you are."



Agriculture - 1938

Improvement of.

# Arkansas Farmer Sees Value Of Yielding To Machine Age, Will Use Rust Cotton Picker

Lower Cost Of Production Through More Efficient Operation Is Viewed By Lincoln Countian As Solution To Major Problem

Special to The Commercial Appeal

PINE BLUFF, Ark., May 28.—King Cotton, who has ruled supreme in the South since Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, is beginning to realize that production of cotton is to be controlled by the machine age.

As steps are being taken to mechanize the planting, cultivating and picking of the South's greatest crop, the old arguments for and against the use of machinery to supplant hand labor are revived.

The cotton industry, one of the largest of the country, has been slow in changing from hand labor

principally because inventors have been slow in perfecting machinery that would replace hand labor.

Many years ago mechanical planters were adopted and a man and a mule, hitched to the planter distributed the cotton seed in the row. Later tractors appeared in the fields after they had proved successful in the grain belt.

Only recently have mechanical cotton choppers appeared being used to thin the young cotton and destroy grass between the stalks and last of all has come the mechanical cotton picker which is to receive its first real test in harvesting this year's crop.

## Production Cost Gains

For many years the cost of producing cotton has steadily increased, thereby reducing profits. Efforts have been made to increase the price of the staple by diversification, which meant a reduction in cotton acreage and finally the Federal Government has endeavored to protect the price of cotton by various plans, including plowing under a portion of the crop and later placing a limit on the number of acres a farmer could plant in cotton.

All that has been done heretofore was designed to protect or raise the price of cotton. No plans were made to reduce the cost of production. For a number of years farmers have been forced to pay more for fertilizer and farming implements, while their taxes have steadily increased.

J. B. A. Johnson of Pine Bluff, who owns 1625 acres of land in Lincoln County, 40 miles southeast of Pine Bluff, is considered the pioneer of mechanized farming in Arkansas. He was the first in this section to purchase a power hay

\$1 per 100 pounds for the cotton they picked. The average day's picking per man or woman was 100 pounds.

Mr. Johnson says the mechanical picker will cover an acre per hour and if the land is rich enough to produce a bale per acre the mechanical picker will pick a bale per hour. Mr. Johnson says the cost of picking by machine is about 11 cents per 100 pounds. The mechanical picker is equipped with lights and can be operated at night until the dew falls.

Cotton is never picked when it is lamp, but the mechanical picker with its big pneumatic tires may be operated when the furrows are filled with mud or water, while the picker must have dry ground in order to travel.

Going back to the first stages of the crop, Mr. Johnson says that a four-row tractor and cultivator will take the place of 16 mules and eight men.

## Welcomed Rust Invention

Realizing the value of a successful mechanical cotton picker, Mr. Johnson welcomed a demonstration of the Rust machine on his farm last November. After the machine had been in operation for a little more than one hour, rain began to fall and continued for two weeks. But in the short time that the picker was at work it picked 1600 pounds of seed cotton which was cleaner and of better grade than hand-picked cotton. Mr. Johnson at once placed an order for a picker to be delivered in time for gathering the 1938 crop.

Last year Mr. Johnson had only 400 acres in cotton. From this tract he gathered 270 bales of cotton, but he said enough cotton for at least 75 in-bales was left in the field, as it was not possible to gather all by hand before the rainy season ended the picking.

He says that if he had had a mechanical picker to gather the crop last year he could have gathered all before the rainy season and estimates his loss at \$4500 by being forced to depend upon hand labor. Under the plan followed in the past there has been a big demand for labor to chop or thin the cotton in the Spring and a greater demand for labor to pick the cotton when it is ready to be gathered in the Fall. Mr. Johnson had been hiring 75 to 100 negroes each day to pick his cotton.

## High Labor Cost

The laborers were transported by truck from Pine Bluff to the cotton field each morning and returned to their home at night. They were paid from 85 cents to

## Better Machine Results

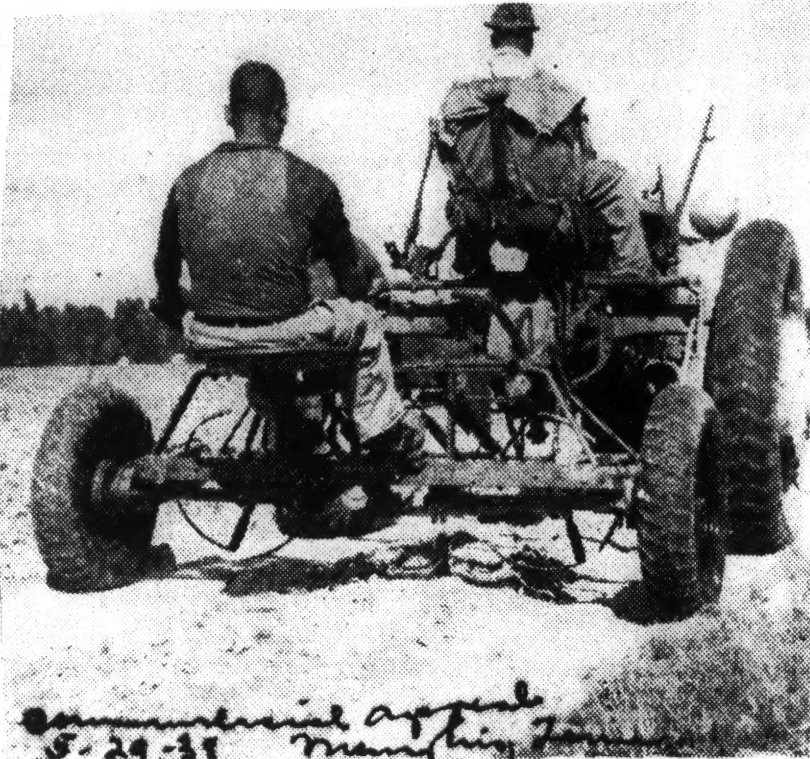
A two-row cotton chopper with tractor will chop four acres of cotton per hour, with two men operating it. A man or woman using a hoe will chop less than an acre of cotton per day, half an acre being the average.

As a result of his experience, Mr. Johnson says he never again will depend upon day labor for making his crop.

When asked what effect the use of "mechanical farmers" will have on tenants and sharecroppers, Mr. Johnson said they would not be affected in any way.

He has about 23 families of negroes on his place, having been there from 10 to 25 years. They will continue to make their crops as in the past and may be able to share in the benefits of the machines if they get behind in their work.

The mechanized program merely will enable Mr. Johnson to plan and produce his crop without relying upon the uncertainties of day labor.

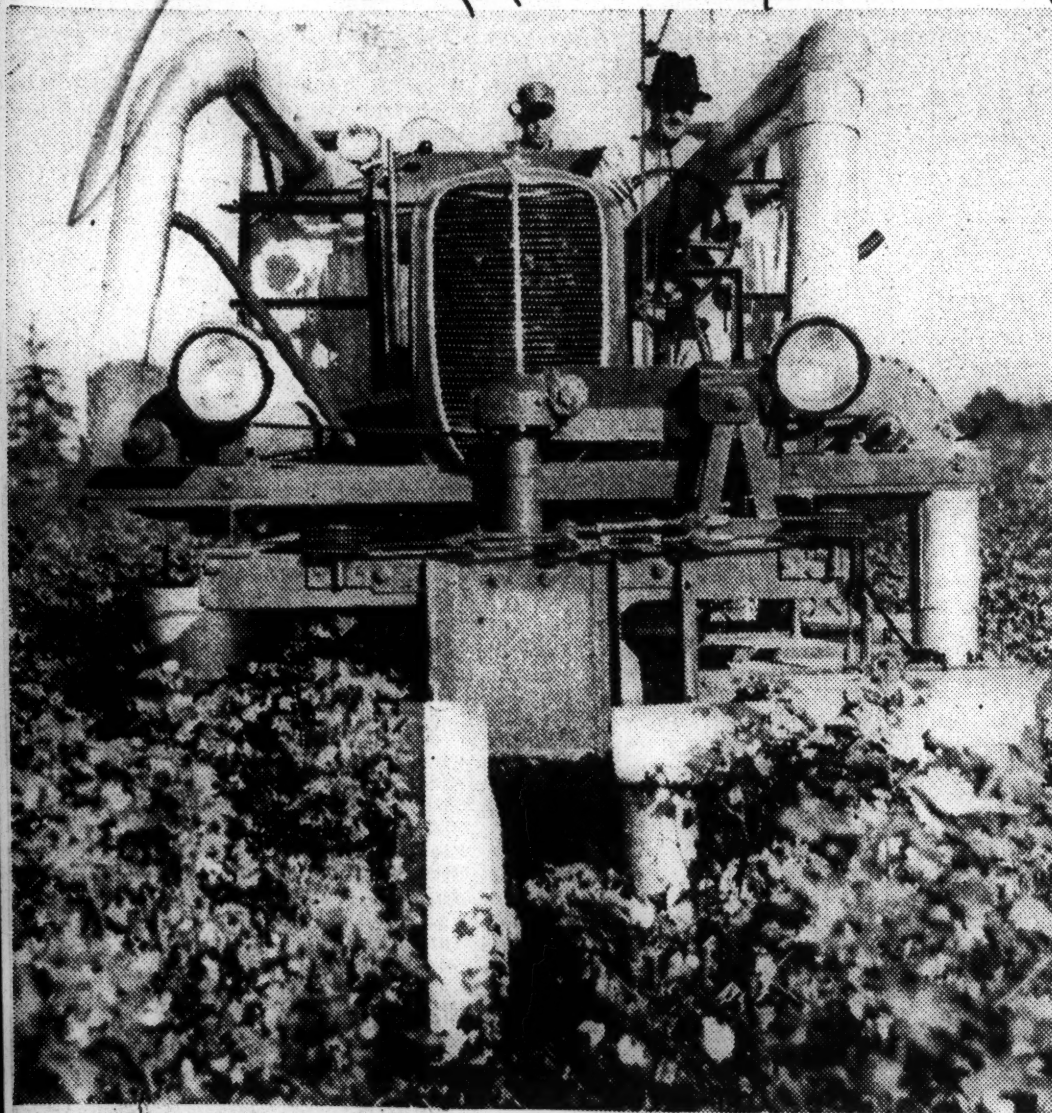


The latest innovation is the cotton chopper, shown here which Mr. Johnson is preparing to use soon.



# From Planting to Harvesting Cotton Crop---It's All Machinery

*Commercial Appeal 5-29-38 Memphis, Tenn.*



This Fall a cotton picker will harvest the crop of J. B. A. Johnson on his farm near Pine Bluff, Ark.



Here Mr. Johnson stands by a tractor which has been used in planting the crop.



Agriculture - 1938

Improvement of

STATE LAND AUTHORITY

PROPOSED IN ARKANSAS

Farm Tenancy Group Moves

Toward Legislation

LEGISLATIVE HELP SEEN

Senator Coleman Voices Assurance

Of Sympathetic Assembly

— Clearer Tax Title Law

Is Big Aim

By The Associated Press

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Oct. 24.—

The Arkansas Farm Tenancy Commission moved today toward legislation which would establish a state land authority with "wide discretionary powers" and a classification of Arkansas' land title law, described as being at present in "terrible confusion."

On recommendation of the commission, C. E. Palmer, Southwest Arkansas publisher and chairman of the commission, appointed a committee to draw up a bill proposing the land authority.

#### Committee Named

The committee is composed of Dr. C. O. Brannen, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; J. L. Bell, Russellville; Fletcher Majors, Dardanelle; State Land Commissioner Otis Page, Little Rock; and E. A. Henry, Little Rock, of the State Planning Board.

The Land Title Committee, which has been functioning for several months, reported it would have a proposed bill ready for submission to the commission by early December.

The committee hopes for clarification of the tax title law as a necessary move to reclaiming state land for homesteading purposes.

Chairman J. Frank Holmes of Prairie Grove, of the Land Title Committee, said his group would have to spend two days in the law library at Little Rock before drawing up the bill "because there are a few repealing clauses to be included."

#### Page Sees Success

Asked for his opinion on the proposed land authority, Mr. Page told Mr. Palmer "I think it would be a financial success after the system under which we have been working for the past 100 years."

Several suggestions were ad-

vanced for obtaining revenue for administration of the authority, but Mr. Page said he didn't think the commission would have any trouble finding a source of funds.

In an address before the commission at the morning session, Mr. Page said much of the land granted the state by the United States Government had been disposed of in "wanton waste approaching economic sin," and that he heartily indorsed a land use policy.

#### Discusses Methods

The commission discussed numerous methods for obtaining land for homesteading, including the possibility of buying some now under mortgage by finance and insurance companies.

Several members of the commission warned that not a whole lot of the tax delinquent land owned by the state, even with titles cleared, would be suitable for farming, but possibly could be exchanged for farming lands.

At the conclusion of today's meeting, Mr. Palmer asserted:

"I think if we can get these two laws, one on tax titles and one on land authority, passed through the Legislature, we've made quite a start on our problem."

Assurance of a sympathetic Legislature came from State Senator

Lucien E. Coleman, Lepanto, who said, "I believe the Legislature will carry out your recommendations."

C. T. Carpenter, Marked Tree attorney, described the commission's attitude regarding the present land title law with:

"The laymen don't know anything about it. Lawyers know very little about it. And the judges in this state admit it's in a hell of a mess."

A plea for the return to the principles of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln came from Dr. J. B. Watson, Pine Bluff, president of the Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes.

He said there was a great need for educating the rural people.

"We may not have much trouble getting the landlord in the mood to sell these lands to the tenant," he said, "but because of their ignorance we're going to have a hard time bringing these tenants to realize that they can own and operate these lands themselves. They have been tenants too long by tradition."

Mr. Palmer appointed the following on a Committee on Education, Health and Housing: Roy Roberts, Fayetteville, chairman; E. B. Matthews, Little Rock; H. C. Baker, Little Rock; A. Carlson, Trumann; Mrs. W. C. Pope, Little Rock; J. L. Bell, Russellville, and Fletcher Majors, Dardanelle.

Arkansas.



# Agriculture — 1938 Improvement of.

California

## COTTON PICKER USES NEW IDEA

Machine Has Tiny Barbs To  
Pull Staple From  
Ripe Bolls

Rapid growth of farm electrification was predicted by several speakers. Less than a fourth of the farms able to use electricity are actually using it now, it was stated. But farmers are coming into the market fast.

The extent of private power companies' activities in the rural areas is indicated by the servicing of approximately 300,000 rural homes by private companies during the two years ending Dec. 31, 1937.

Copyright, 1938, by Science Service

PACIFIC GROVE, Cal., June 29

—A new type of cotton picking machine was described here today before the meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, by E. A. Johnston, vice-president of the International Harvester Co.

Contrary to commonly accepted belief, Mr. Johnston does not expect a successful cotton picker to cause serious rural unemployment. On the contrary, he reported, there was not enough local labor to harvest last year's cotton crop, and planters had to employ unsatisfactory transient labor.

The new machine described by Mr. Johnston has two revolving cylinders, each bearing 154 spindles. Unlike the much discussed Rust cotton picker, the new international machine has tiny barbs on its spindles. As they whirl, the barbs catch the cotton fibers and pull the ripe bolls out. The spindles then pass devices called "doffers" which take the cotton off them and drop it on a conveyor belt.

Machine harvesting of cotton may bring changes all along the line in the cotton-growing industry, Mr. Johnston pointed out. The very shape of the cotton plant itself may be changed by breeding, to permit readier operation of the mechanism.

Fields rebuilt into terraces by powerful earth-moving machinery will yield the better crops of cotton demanded by the steel-fingered pickers of the future. Eugene C. Buie of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service reported solid profits obtained by terracing farm lands on the Southern High Plains.

"Experimental data indicate that the available soil moisture which can be utilized for plant growth may be increased as much as 50 per cent as a result of level terracing with contour tillage," he said. "This increased available moisture has shown an average increased production of lint cotton for an eleven year period sufficient to pay the initial cost of the land at \$50 an acre, the cost of the terracing, and still have money left over for dividends."

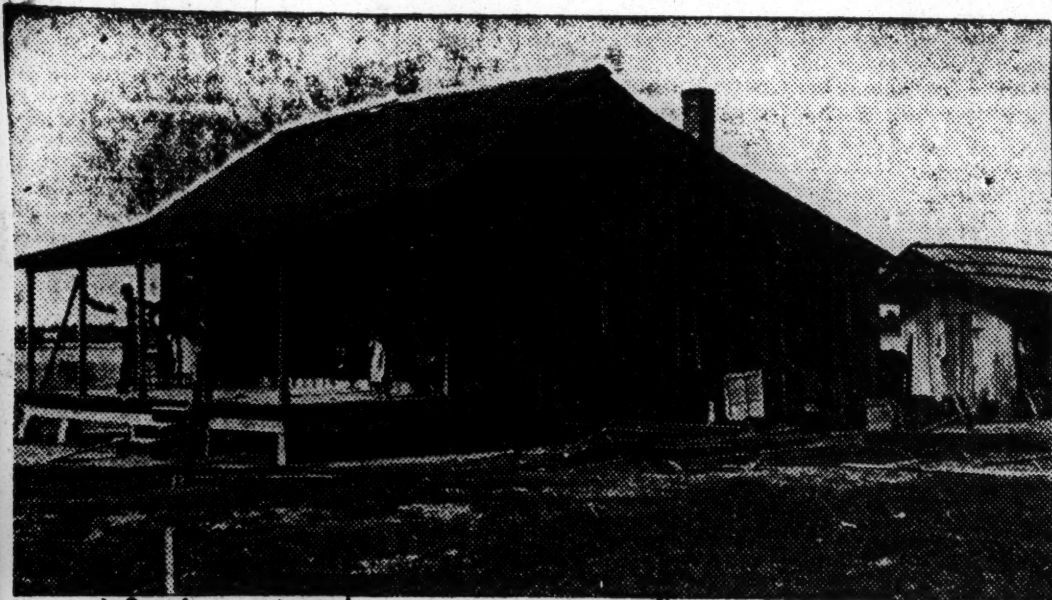


Agriculture — 1938

Farm Security Administration

Improvement

## WHAT THE FSA IS DOING FOR THE POOR IN SOUTHEAST MISSOURI



*Defender 10-1-38 Chicago Ill.*  
Down in the Delta country of southeast Missouri where decrepit sharecropper shacks and sultry cotton fields have become familiar sights during the past 25 years, a unique and far-reaching experiment is in progress. Officially it is named Southeast Missouri Farms and was planned, built and put into operation by the Farm Security Administration, an agency in the United States Department of Agriculture. This project was established by the FSA with the aim of finding the answers to two major problems: the questions of effecting economies in construction of farm homes and buildings, and that of finding the best means of assisting low-income families to raise their living standards to

Waverly, Tenn., Demo.-Sentinel  
September 29, 1938

### TENANT FARMERS APPLY FOR LOANS

Applications have been filed by 14,824 tenant farmers in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia for loans to buy farms under the tenant purchase program of the farm Security Administration. C. Carter Chase, Chief of the Tenant Purchase Section, "announced last week.

"Applications have been received from 124 of the 133 designated counties," Mr. Chase said. "This shows an average of 120 applicants per county. Nine counties not yet reported should raise the total of tenants seek-

ing loans well above 15,000."

Report for the period ending Sept. 17 showed Tennessee far in the lead with an average of 202 applications per county, with only 23 of the 31 designated counties reported. Applications from Tennessee total 4,641. Of these, 3,588 were white tenants and 1,053 were Negroes.

North Carolina was first in the total number of applications with 5,658 reported from 49 of the 50 designated counties. This was an average of only 115 applications per county. Of these, 3,931 were white, 1,659 were Negroes and 68 Indians.

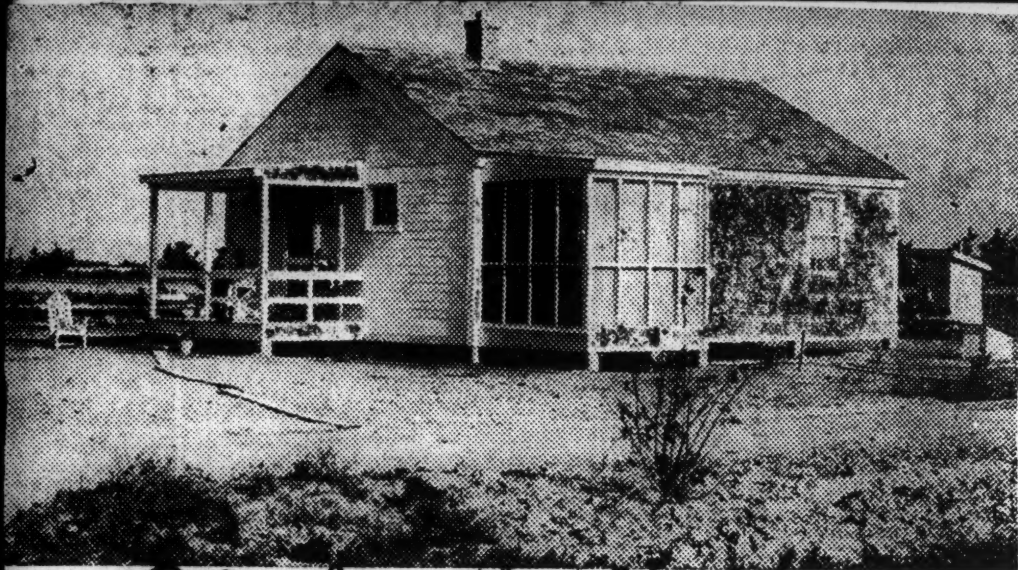
Kentucky, with all 21 designated counties reported, showed a total of 2,201 applications or an average of 105 per county. Of these, 2,165 were white and only 36 Negro.

Virginia turned in 1,934 applications

for an average of 81 in all of the 24 designated counties. Of these 1508 were white and 426 Negroes. West Virginia with only seven designated counties turned in 390 applications for a average of 56 in each county.

White tenant applications totaled 11,582; Negro 3,147 and Indians, 68.





adequate levels, become self-sufficient and find permanent security. The "Cabin in the Cotton" shown at left, holds no romance as it stands in the blazing sun of New Madrid county, Missouri. Typical of kitchens in the "Delta Country," is the one pictured in center. A pan of corn bread and a kettle of boiling "sow belly," standard diet of sharecroppers, can be seen. The modern, well ventilated home shown at right is what the mother and daughter moved into with the aid of the Farm Security Administration. Each homesteader will pay Uncle Sam rent, partially in the form of a share of the cotton crop and partially in cash.—Photos by Lee of FSA staff.

## LA. WHITES PROTEST REMOVAL

Transfer Being Fought by Both Groups, as FSA Gets Itself Tangled Up.

LAKE PROVIDENCE, La., Oct. 27—White tenants in Thomaston, a Farm Security Administration settlement near here, have protested against the government's plan to have them move out. Negro families can be moved in from Transylvania, another FSA settlement 40 miles away. The whites say they are content to live in Thomaston with Negro families. A petition has been signed and sent to Louisiana congressmen and senators protesting against the transfer.

The transfer of Negroes from Transylvania to Thomaston was ordered by Dr. Will W. Alexander, director of the FSA because, he said, his information indicated better facilities at Thomaston.

According to an investigation completed recently by the Lake

Providence branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Thomaston lacks facilities for Negroes, particularly schools. There is said also to be some 6,000 fewer acres of land at Thomaston than the total cited by Dr. Alexander.

With Negroes protesting any transfer to Thomaston and with whites in Thomaston protesting transfer to Transylvania, the FSA has not indicated as yet what steps will be taken to untangle the situation.

the sixth round of what was scheduled as the main ten-round event, Saturday night at Rockland Palace. In the "immortal language" of Edwin C. Hill, the "story behind the news" was, that matchmaker Billy Brown staged the most sensational and savagely contested contest local fans have seen in recent years.

## Announce Plans For Development Of Two Homestead Projects

WASHINGTON — Announce who have an interest in a cooperative store there, will be given of two new homesteads in Louisiana, was made, Wednesday by Dr. Will W. Alexander, Farm Security Administration Administrator.

In making the announcement, Dr. Alexander emphasized the limitations of projects, pointing out that they are intended to serve as demonstrations of a new type of social and economic organization which may prove of value to hundreds of families in the surrounding farming areas.

"We have endeavored to set up at least one such demonstration project for Negro families in each Southern state which has a large Negro population," said the Administrator, "and it has long been our intention to establish the Louisiana Negro project as a similar one for white families, on land owned by the Farm Security Administration in the Delta area."

"It was decided to establish the Negro project in Madison Parish on four tracts known as Henderson, Fortune Fork, Mounds, and California plantations; and to establish the white project on the Transylvania plantation in East Carroll Parish."

Reasons given for this decision were:

1. Desire to avoid the establishment of a second Negro project in East Carroll Parish, where a Farm Tenant Security project, including 23 Negro families, is already in operation, and
2. The desirability of using the larger acreage available in Madison Parish tracts, while only 9,862 acres were available on Transylvania Plantation.

Surveys by Farm Security Administration farm management specialists indicated that the land in Madison Parish, which is immediately adjacent to East Carroll, is equally as productive and more easily cultivated than that on the Transylvania site. The four tracts in Madison Parish now will accommodate 147 families on adequate acreage suitable for diversified farming. Further development eventually is expected to increase the total number of homesteaders to 200 families.

Rehabilitation assistance for displaced families not included in either the white or the colored project will be provided by the Farm Security Administration, Dr. Alexander said. He pointed

out that even had sufficient acreage been available for the entire group of either white or Negro families, some displacement would have been necessary in the family selection process, in order to obtain the highest calibre of homesteaders for the demonstration projects.

Negroes now on Transylvania, cash payments equal to their total investment, together with such undistributed dividends as the store has accumulated. On the new Negro project in Madison Parish, cooperative facilities including a centrally located cotton gin will be established.

Residents of East Carroll and Madison Parishes have been given full information regarding the plans of the Farm Security Administration for both developments.

## La. Whites Want to Live Along with Colored

LAKE PROVIDENCE, La.—

White tenants in Thomaston, a Farm Security Administration settlement here, have protested against the government's plan to have them move out so colored families can be moved in from Transylvania, another FSA settlement.

The whites are content to live in Thomaston with colored families. The transfer was ordered by Dr. Will W. Alexander, FSA director.

The local NAACP contends that Thomaston lacks facilities for colored people.



# ARE STEEL HOUSES THE ANSWER?

Yesterday The Advertiser printed what may well become a historic announcement. The Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company delivered to the Farm Security Administration twelve units of all-steel prefabricated farm buildings. They are to be erected at the direction of the FSA on farms in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina.

Several years ago the TCI began experimenting with all-steel houses, and the first one was constructed a couple of years ago on the Birmingham-Montgomery highway, just over the mountain from the Magic City. Thousands of persons have gone through this house, which is now exhibited, and have each marveled at its excellence.

Engineers of the TCI have devoted a great deal of time since the construction of this house to experimental work. An effort has been made to bring the cost down to a satisfactory level, for the primary aim is that steel houses shall be made available for rural families.

Recently the FSA became interested in the idea of pre-fabricated all-steel houses, and yesterday the first order of this government agency was filled. It is believed that the houses can be put together with little effort and without the need of much skilled labor. Homes, barns and chicken houses have been designed.

Is this the answer to the rural housing problem of the South? If it is TCI and FSA will deserve Congressional medals. Of all the people in the world those now living in the poorest dwellings are the farmers of this part of the country. Thousands of farm homes are in a miserable state of disrepair; many of them are so far gone that they can never be repaired. Many new frame dwellings are unsatisfactory—and costly.

Steel houses, of course, will hardly be inexpensive at first, though the TCI claims that the cost of these buildings has been brought "down to a competing level with buildings of other materials." Mass production would bring the cost down even further, and delivery charges in the South would not be great, considering Birmingham's centralized location.

Moreover, the houses should last indefinitely, and cost practically nothing to keep up. The FSA and the TCI should by all means continue their studies in low-cost steel housing. They may have something that will revolutionize rural life in the United States.

## T. C. I. Ships 2 All-Steel Farm Units For ESA

Structures To Be Tested To Determine Their Use As Dwellings

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Nov. 21.—The first two of a dozen all-steel farm units—10 with five buildings each—were shipped today by the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company to sites picked by the Farm Security Administration in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina.

Southeastern F. S. A. headquarters at Montgomery said the units were to serve "as an experiment to determine, by actual living experience, the advantages of metallic construction" of farm buildings in connection with its tenant purchase program and other rural activities.

The buildings are produced here to specifications of the F. S. A. chief engineer's office and will be erected in the following areas: Ashwood, S. C., Orangeburg, S. C., Flint River, Ga., Jackson County, Ga., Butts County, Ga., Macon County, Ala., and Walker County, Ala.

T. C. I. and F. S. A. authorities predicted all would be erected and ready for use by Feb. 1.

The cost of an erected five-room dwelling was estimated by F. S. A. to range from \$1,695 to \$1,904. The barns, turned out in two types, cost from \$688 to \$900; poultry houses from \$154 to \$167, smoke houses from \$133 to \$142, and privies from \$53 to \$58.

The dwellings contain a living room, three bedrooms, and combination kitchen and dining room. Two large closets and a pantry are included and space is available for a bathroom if desired. Approximately six tons of steel are used.

All of the foundation structure, the frame, sides, roof, exterior door, and window trims and fireplace are of steel. Floors and doors are of wood. An insulating wall board is used as interior finish for the walls and ceilings.

Approximately 12 and one-half tons of steel is required for the unit of five buildings. The outbuildings are constructed entirely of steel.

Complete prefabrication enables swift erection of the buildings by the bolting together of the panels.

If the home owner wishes to add a room, this is done by making the dimensions in multiples of four, such as 8 by 12 feet, 12 by 16 feet, etc.

The two units shipped today went to a site belonging to the Alabama Tenant Security Project in Walker County, near Jasper, home of Senator John H. Bankhead and House Speaker William B. Bankhead, both proponents of legislation designed to aid the farmer.

The remaining 10 units will be assigned as follows, the F. S. A. said: Two to the Georgia Tenant Security Project, one to be erected near Jackson, in Butts County, the other in Jackson County, near the town of Winder.

Two to the Flint River Farms Project in South Carolina, both to near Montezuma, in Macon County.

Two to the Ashwood Plantation Project in South Carolina, both to be erected near Bishopville, in Lee County.

Two to the Prairie Farms Project in Alabama, both to be erected near Tysonville, in Macon County.

Both Jasper units are expected to be ready for occupancy within five weeks.

The barns embrace a corn crib, two divisions for animals, a section for storing tools and a hay loft.

## The Farmer's Guide

Interesting News and Helpful Hints  
For Those Who Till The Soil

### Tenants Become Owners Through FSA Loans

NEARLY 2,000 tenants and sharecroppers lifted themselves to the status of farm owners during the last fiscal year with loans authorized by the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. The figures are from the Farm Security Administration, United States Department of Agriculture.

Although only 1,888 loans could be made from the \$10,000,000 appropriated by Congress for the first year, 38,065 nonowners in 325 counties designated by the Secretary of Agriculture competed for them.

The average loan for the purchase and improvement of a farm was \$4,890. In many Southern States average was about \$3,400 per farm. In Midwestern States the average loan was about \$7,500 per farm. Six hundred and fourteen farms cost \$2,500 or less.

Loans are made to farm families selected by county committees of three farmers in each designated county. In character, ability, and experience the borrowers compare with any group of farmers. The notes given by the borrowers to the Government are secured by mortgages on the farm. They are payable within 40 years at 3 per cent.

To safeguard the loans, the Farm Security Administration encourages approved farm and home management plans. County agricultural agents, home demonstration agents, and county rehabilitation supervisors assist in making these plans.

### FSA Aids In Shrinking Farm Debts

The farm debt adjustment service of the Farm Security Administration has completed settlements in 80,255 cases since 1935, involving \$265,803,668. Reductions of \$65,961,643 reduced debts about 25 percent and enabled farmers benefited to pay \$4,175,759 in back taxes to local governmental agencies.

The adjustment committees have settled indebtedness of 59 group enterprises — such as irrigation, drainage, and diking associations — involving 8,724 farmers and 754,490 acres of land. Debts totaling

\$13,888,762 were reduced 32 percent.

Officials appointed by the FSA work with local voluntary committees in every State. They study debt problems at the request of either the debtor or the creditor. Each case is considered on its own merits. A farmer with but a \$50 equity in a farm is relieved by a \$10 reduction as much, comparatively, as a large-scale operator who has its debts reduced by thousands of dollars.

The committee has no authority to force adjustments. It merely brings together the debtor and his creditors, and offers advice on the best means of reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement. There is no charge for his help.

An opportunity for the farmer and his creditors to meet and talk things over with a third party often leads to a better understanding all around.

### Carver Aids Program To Reduce Surplus

Dr. George W. Carver, Tuskegee Institute's noted agricultural scientist calls attention to the serious emergency facing the South as a result of the thirteen million bale surplus of cotton carried over from 1937 which "has tended to depress the price and thereby reduce the farmers' income."

"Under the able leadership of Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace," said Dr. Carver, "the Agricultural Conservation act of 1938 seeks to relieve this situation by limiting cotton production until such time as demand more nearly equals supply. This is as broadly carried out by enabling the farmers to vote for acreage limitation when surpluses threaten to depress prices."

Of the referendum which was held on December 10, Dr. Carver considers it not only an opportunity for farmers to participate in a program "to meet a pressing emergency, but at the same time their support of the program will encourage the efforts to improve relations between landlord and sharecropper, and to make better the living conditions for women and children on the farm."

Reports received indicate that Negro farmers displayed much interest in the referendum on cotton



marketing quotas for 1939.

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace announced in Washington recently that one of the four \$1,000,000 agricultural laboratories which the government is to establish will go to New Orleans instead of Alabama. Strenuous efforts had been made to land the project at Auburn, Ala., where the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College is located, a few miles from Tuskegee Institute.

Among the Alabama delegation which went to Washington to urge that the establishment go to the state were, Gov. Bibb Graves, President Patterson of Tuskegee, Senators John H. Bankhead and Lister Hill, and President L. N. Duncan of the A. and M. College. Tuskegee's interest was in having some of the extensive experiments, especially in cotton and peanuts, farmed out to Dr. George W. Carver.

## "Junk Heap" Plants May Be Valuable

Many plants that are plentiful but now have little or no commercial value may ultimately occupy a high position in American agriculture, says S. B. Detwiler, Department of Agriculture scientist. Some of these plants are regarded as weeds and Detwiler calls them "junk heap" plants because, like a junk heap, they represent definite values to those who are keen enough to find them.

For several years Detwiler has been conducting studies of erosion-resisting plants for the Soil Conservation Service, searching for better plant covers to hold or rebuild worn soil. In the "junk heap" he found broomedge which grows on worn soils of the southeast until sufficient humus is added to grow valuable grasses that would not grow before.

Pointing out that industry has profited enormously from the utilization of wastes, Detwiler believes a similar opportunity exists for agriculture.

"When Nature gives us 'un-economic' plants in abundance at our doorstep, it seems wise to investigate every possible economic utility in such plants before declaring them a worthless nuisance.

## SECURITY FOR FARMERS

### Facts and Figures From the Farm Security Administration

Washington, D. C.—ALL TENANT FARMERS AND CROPPERS SHOULD KNOW that while deadlines for tenant purchase loans for 1938-1939 have already gone into effect in most states, this does not mean that applications cannot be filed for the next fiscal year. Applications may be filed at any time. Here is the necessary information:

If you live in a county where loans are to be made this year get an application blank from the county rehabilitation supervisor. If you do not know his address, you can obtain it from your county agent. If you do not know whether your county is eligible this year, ask your agent.

County committees consisting of three farmers, determine which applicants will be eligible to receive loans. Character, ability and experience are considered in selecting applicants.

A farm which can be operated by family labor is the type usually approved.

Loans will include money needed to repair present buildings, build fences and improve the land, so that the family occupying the farm can have comfortable and healthful surroundings. Loans are made for a 40-year period at 3 percent interest, but payment in full may be made at any time after 5 years.

Talk over your plans with your county supervisor and county committee before selecting your farm. They will help you.

FIGURES ON TENANT PURCHASE APPLICATIONS BY RACE.

RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM THE FIELD, show that Negro tenants applied for 1938-1939 loans in fairly good numbers. For instance:

IN TENNESSEE, where 21 percent of the tenants are Negroes, 20.6 percent of the applicants for TP loans were Negroes.

IN VIRGINIA, which has 26 percent of the tenants Negroes, 23.5 percent of the applicants were Negroes.

NORTH CAROLINA, with 34.5 percent Negro tenants, had 29.9 percent Negro applicants.

ALABAMA, with 42.9 percent Negro tenants, had 34 percent Negro applicants in 1937-1938—a smaller percentage—20.8—but four times the number of actual applications for 1938-1939.

ARKANSAS' Negro applicants jumped from 17.5 percent of the total for 1937-1938 loans, to 37 percent for 1938-1939. In actual applications 12 1-2 times last year's figures.

MISSISSIPPI has 67.9 percent Negro tenants, but only 19 percent of the applicants for loans in 1937-1938 were Negro. This number increased to 31.5 percent for 1938-1939.

### NOT SO GOOD:

FLORIDA, with 29 percent Negro tenants, had, last year, 17.3 percent of her applicants, Negro, none of whom received loans. This year Negro applicants are dropped to 6.8 percent of the total. White applications rose proportionately.

IN LOUISIANA, 54.9 percent of the tenants are Negro. For 1937-1938, 30 percent of the applicants were Negro. They received 8.5 percent of the loans. This year, 43.5 percent of Louisiana's applicants are Negro.

FIGURES ON TENANT PURCHASE LOANS FOR 1938-1939

have not yet been compiled. INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT AT THE NEWPORT NEWS SHIPYARDS is expected to stimulate purchase of the Farm Security

Homes at Aberdeen Garden. Prices on these homes have been recently scaled down to meet the needs of the industrial workers for whom they were erected. Plans were being made in one piece. The engine is being made through which Aberdeen

Gardens residents will be enabled to obtain rehabilitation loans for the purchase of poultry, or for garden equipment. Prices on Aberdeen homes now start at \$1800, and rents begin at \$11.25.

The Farm Security Administration has built a fine school house at Aberdeen, which will be staffed and operated by the county, as soon as the number of pupils on the project warrants this. In the meantime the building is being used as a community and recreation center. Project folk have raised money for volleyball and table tennis equipment, and a real community spirit is developing. A co-operative store will soon be set up.

Mrs. Stevens, home management supervisor at the project, has a model house for her demonstrations.

The last of the drainage work is now going on.

November 1 will mark the first anniversary of the opening of the project.

THE LIVE-AT-HOME PROGRAM IS MAKING PROGRESS.

AT ROANOKE FARMS, NORTH CAROLINA, where 137 colored families canned 22,000 jars of fruits and vegetables, which included 30 varieties. The colored home economist made 87 farm visits during the month of September. The farm management supervisor made 71 visits.

FAMILY SELECTION IS NOW GOING ON AT WOLF PIT FARMS, NORTH CAROLINA. As planned at present, two-thirds of the homesteaders on this project will be white, and one-third Negro. Houses will soon be erected.

THE FIRST TENANT PURCHASE LOAN MADE IN Tipton County, Tennessee, UNDER THE BANKHEAD-JONES ACT, was that granted on August 31, to Roosevelt Green, 31-year-old Negro farm tenant. With the loan Green bought a 55-acre farm near Solo, Tennessee. He will take over the farm in January, having 40 years in which to pay for it. M. S. Taylor, supervisor of loans for

Tipton County, has not announced the purchase price. Like all FSA clients, Green will have the assistance of government supervisors in operating his farm.



Agriculture - 1938

## Improvement of 5000 TENANTS TO GET LOANS TO BUY FARMS

Federal Lending Agencies Map  
1938 Program

\$25,000,000 IS AVAILABLE

FCA Reports Farmers of Small  
Means Are Leading Purchas-  
ers of Agricultural Property  
At Present

By The Associated Press  
WASHINGTON, June 22.—Fed-  
eral lending agencies disclosed to-  
day they would broaden their at-  
tack on the Nation's farm tenancy  
problem during the next 12 months.  
That problem is the existence of  
about 3,000,000 farm tenants, share  
croppers and laborers who for fi-  
nancial and other reasons do not  
own land. Largely because of farm  
foreclosures and drought, their num-  
bers have been increasing about 40-  
000 annually in recent years.

5000 to Get Loans  
The Farm Security Administra-  
tion, agency created last year to help  
tenants acquire farm homes, an-  
nounced that a \$25,000,000 congres-  
sional appropriation would enable it  
to make long-term, low-interest  
loans to about 5000 tenants.

Loans by this agency during the  
current fiscal year will total about  
1500, officials said.

The Farm Credit Administration  
said it expected to make farm pur-  
chase loans to tenant farmers at  
the rate of about 2000 a month,  
largely as the result of congres-  
sional action continuing low-inter-  
est rates on farm loans. Financing  
through this agency requires the  
borrower to supply at least 25 per  
cent of the purchase price. Farm  
Security Administration loans re-  
quire no down payment.

Small Farmers Buy Land

Despite lower commodity prices  
this Spring and Summer, FCA of-  
ficials reported that farmers of  
small means are now the main buy-  
ing force in the farm real estate  
market. They have virtually re-  
placed nonoperators and absentee  
investors who were buying land last  
year, either for investment or as a  
hedge against possible inflation.

Lending activities of the Farm  
Security Administration were con-  
fined to 333 counties this year, but  
will be extended to 367 additional  
counties during the coming fiscal

year. Tenant applicants for loans,  
which total more than 40,000, must  
be approved by local farmer com-  
mittees.

F. E. Hill, deputy governor of  
the Farm Credit Administration,  
said the number of farm families  
rising to the status of ownership  
this year was fully twice as large  
as in 1932.

## FSA's Lake Dick Plantation Will Be Inspected By Public

By The Associated Press  
ALTHEIMER, Ark., Sept. 4.—A  
public inspection and celebration  
on Sept. 13, will mark completion  
of the Government's Lake Dick  
plantation project, eight miles  
south of here. The 80 young farm  
families comprising the population  
of the state's newest and unique  
farming community will be host to  
an expected large crowd of visitors.  
Senator Hattie W. Caraway has  
accepted an invitation to partici-  
pate in the program. Other speak-  
ers will be W. F. Norrell, Montic-  
cello, nominee for Congress; Dr. H.  
W. Blalock, member of the State  
Utilities Commission; and T. Roy  
Reid and E. B. Whitaker, regional  
director and assistant director of  
the Farm Security Administration.  
Inspection will begin at 1:30 p.m.  
with J. J. Pickren, community  
manager, in charge. Arrangements  
have been made to show visitors  
through the 3450-acre plantation,  
community buildings and houses  
before the speaking begins at the  
auditorium an hour later.

Visitors will see what is perhaps  
a unique plantation enterprise in  
the South. Planned and construct-  
ed by the FSA, the project is oper-  
ated along orthodox plantation  
lines except residents work for  
cash wages and, as members of the  
Lake Dick Co-operative Associa-  
tion that operates the entire com-  
munity activities, will participate in  
expected profits of the venture at  
the end of the year.

Mr. Reid said the project was  
sponsored by the Government to  
help a small number of capable and  
ambitious farm families make their  
own way and to achieve a better  
standard of living by working co-  
operatively toward a single goal.  
"Through such a practical dem-  
onstration," the regional FSA di-  
rector asserted, "the Government  
expects to learn much that will be  
useful in the never-ending battle  
to solve the more chronic and pain-  
ful ills of farm tenancy."

## Farm Tenancy Cut

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (CNA)—  
The rate of increasing farm ten-  
ancy has been cut 50 per cent by  
U. S. lending agencies, it was es-  
timated this week. In previously  
years tenancy has increased at the  
rate of 40,000 per year.  
The Farm Security Administra-  
tion plans to loan enough money  
for 25,000 farmers to make down-  
payments on farms during the fis-  
cal year which began July 1, it  
was reported. These funds will  
come out of the \$200,000,000 for  
farm aid which was included in the  
Recovery Bill appropriations. It  
is estimated that only one out of  
every 100 farmers who want to  
purchase farms are being aided by  
federal funds.

## 40,000 FAMILIES SEEK FARM TENANT LOANS

Applications Made From Four  
Southern States

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Sept. 9.—  
(AP)—R. W. Judgens, Southeast-  
ern Farm Security administrator  
announced today more than 40,000  
farm families had applied for ten-  
ant-purchase loans in Alabama,  
Georgia, Florida and South Caro-  
lina.  
Allotments for 1938-39 to the va-  
rious states under the Bankhead  
Jones Farm Tenant Act are: Ala-  
bama, \$1,538,827; Florida, \$154,057;  
Georgia, \$1,587,507; South Carolina,  
\$1,015,412; total \$4,295,905.  
Mr. Judgens reported 20,257 loan  
applications had been filed from 57  
Alabama counties; 547 from six  
Florida counties; 13,025 from 75  
Georgia, and 7376 from 21 in South  
Carolina.

More than 500 farms were bought  
for tenants under the Bankhead  
Jones long-term, low-interest plan  
in the year ending June 30. Jud-  
gens gave the following statistics:  
Alabama, 180 farms, \$612,792, av-

erage loan \$3404; Florida, 16 farms,  
\$60,645, average \$3790; Georgia, 186  
farms, \$633,963, average \$3408;  
South Carolina, 123 farms, \$405,949,  
average \$3300.

Yazoo City, Miss. Herald  
September 13, 1938

## 32 Negro Farmers Given Preference

Colored Committee  
Makes Selections  
For FSA Clients

"A colored committee composed  
of 32 negro farmers of Yazoo Coun-  
ty met with the negro county agent  
D. W. Lindsey, on September 10  
and selected 93 applicants out of  
the total of 408 applications from  
colored tenant farmers," says an  
announcement from J. T. West,  
county F. S. A. supervisor. "These  
applicants will have further con-  
sideration with the view of making  
rehabilitation loans for 1939," Mr.  
West continues. "Except in meri-  
torious cases, no further applicants  
will have consideration for 1939  
loans from colored families."

"A committee composed of white  
farmers is requested to meet Sep-  
tember 24, and make a review of  
approximately 200 white applicants  
and select 90 families for consid-  
eration for rehabilitation loans for  
next year," Mr. West said.

"Due to a very large number of  
applications, the committee will  
select families who are most needy  
and who are most likely to make  
the most progress from the bene-  
fits of the loan and supervision  
program."

All applicants selected by the  
temporary committees must have  
final approval of the county ad-  
visory committee," Mr. West con-  
tinues.

"The tenant purchase committee,  
composed of Dan Luckett, E. M.  
Ferriss and W. T. Wooten, plans to  
meet Tuesday, September 13, and  
select families who are to be rec-  
ommended for the purchase of land  
through the tenant purchase pro-  
gram," the supervisor announces.

"All applicants who are selected  
by the committees referred to above  
will be notified with reference to  
their selection. Due to the large  
number of applicants it will not be  
convenient to notify those families  
who are not selected by either of  
the committees," he concludes.

## 93 Negroes Are Named Applicants

Many Applicants Have Filed  
For Farm Security  
Loans

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either of the committees.



# Owner-Tenant Pact Required In Cotton Loan

## Farm Security Administration Pledges Explanation Of Ouster Of Tenant Farmers In Louisiana

New FSA Rule Aimed At Shifting Population; To Simplify Advances

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—(AP)—A written agreement between tenant farmers and their landlords became a requirement for government loans to tenants under a new policy announced today by the Farm Security Administration.

C. B. Baldwin, acting administrator, said the requirement would reduce the shifting of tenants on farm land and "do away with much friction between tenants and landlords."

The agency made public a new standard form for farm leases entered into by tenants receiving Federal rehabilitation loans. These are loans averaging \$300 each, to enable farm families to purchase equipment and supplies.

"Each year a million farm families move, largely because of unsatisfactory tenure conditions," Baldwin said. "Improved leases would stop much of this costly moving."

The feature of the standard leases is a requirement that landlords compensate tenants for any permanent improvements on farms, if the leases are terminated.

Another requires that the tenant and landlord participate in government crop control and marketing programs.

Officials said the standard lease resulted from more than three years of experience in making these small loans to farm families in the relief class.

Oftentimes, they said, when the tenant increased his income a few hundred dollars a year, the landlord increased the rent accordingly. As a result the government program subsidized landlords rather than low-income farmers, they said.

Automatic renewals under the new lease are expected to end these complaints, the officials added.

The FSA and its predecessor, the Resettlement Administration, have made the small loans to more than 600,000 farm families.

Officials said the farmer usually needed five years to repay these loans and the new leases were intended to provide rental agreements for this period.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Removal of Negro tenant farmers from Transylvania, the government's resettlement project at Lake Parish, Louisiana, continues apace, while efforts of Farm Security Administration officials to clear up the situation are being pursued, it was revealed this week.

A conference was held here Monday, at the office of Dr. Will Alexander, farm security administrator, when efforts were made to clear up the situation. The conference was called by Dr. Alexander at the request of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Those present during the conversations included: Dr. Charles H. Houston, of the N. A. A. C. P.'s national legal staff; and the following security administration officials: Joseph H. B. Evans, Labor M. Walker and Constance E. Daniel.

In a statement issued shortly after the conference Houston said he had sought to get a clear-cut reason from Dr. Alexander for the government's removal of these Negro tenant farmers from Transylvania to Thomastown, another government resettlement project some sixty miles away.

"Dr. Alexander stated himself," Houston said, "that it was upon his decision made last June that action was taken to remove Negro tenant farmers from Transylvania to Thomastown. I have asked the Farm Security Administration to answer all the correspondence between their officials and the N. A. A. C. P. relating to this matter. I have further asked them to make a statement setting forth their reasons and policies behind the exclusion of Negroes from Transylvania, and to give the N. A. A. C. P. assurance that the Farm Security Administration would make a full disclosure and explanation to the Negroes on the Transylvania project. Dr. Alexander has assured me that these things would be done."

Because citizens in the vicinity of Lake Providence, and within the Transylvania project felt that the Negro tenant farmers, who have lived in this region more than

half a century signed agreements to have themselves transferred to the Thomastown project some sixty miles away, without being aware of what they were doing, an investigation was launched by the N. A. A. C. P. into the project activities last August.

It was said that the tenant farmers signed the agreements fully believing that they would occupy the land they lived on. The Transylvania project was opened for the reception of applicants in June, 1938. It is a cooperative-government-sponsored farming project. Farmers accepted are allotted forty acres of land.

September 19, 1938

### TENANT FARMERS APPLY FOR 14,824 FSA LOANS

#### Applications For Loans To Buy Farms Pour In From Five States

Applications have been filed by 14,824 tenant farmers in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia for loans to buy farms under the tenant purchase program of the Farm Security Administration, C. Carter Chase, Chief of the Tenant Purchase Section, announced today.

"Applications have been received from 124 of the 133 designated counties," Mr. Chase said. "This shows an average of 120 applicants per county. Nine counties not yet reported should raise the total of tenants seeking loans well above 15,000."

Report for the period ending September 17 showed Tennessee far in the lead with an average of 202 applications from Tennessee total 4,641. Of these, 3,588 were white tenants

and 1,053 were Negroes.

North Carolina was first in the total number of applications with 5,658 reported from 49 of the 50 designated counties. This was an average of only 115 applications per county. Of these, 3,931 were white, 1,659 were Negroes and 68 Indians.

Kentucky, with all 21 designated counties reported, showed a total of 2,201 applications or an average of 105 per county. Of these, 2,165 were white and only 36 Negro.

Virginia turned in 1,934 applications for an average of 81 in all of the 24 designated counties. Of these 1508 were white and 426 Negroes. West Virginia with only seven designated counties turned in 390 applications for an average of 56 in each county.

White tenant applications totaled 11,582; Negro 3,174 and Indians, 68.

Cherryville, N. C. Eagle  
September 29, 1938  
**TENANT FARMERS APPLY FOR 14,824 FSA LOANS**

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### FSA TENANT LEASES

The Farm Security Administration announces a new policy under which new tenant farmer borrowers under the rehabilitation program will be required to obtain leases meeting certain minimum standards. The leases must be written. They must cover the points usually dealt with in rental agreements in the locality. The arrangements must be equitable and must promise reasonably secure tenure for the tenant borrower. C. B. Baldwin, Acting Administrator, explained that under the Bankhead-Jones Act "the Farm Security Administration advances loans for the purchase of farms to tenants, share-

#### Applications For Loans To Buy Farms Pour In From Five States

For the immediate future our new policy on rehabilitation loans will help relieve bad features of tenancy for thousands of families. Each year a million farm families move, largely because of unsatisfactory tenure conditions. Improved leases would stop much of this costly moving."



Agriculture-1938

Farm Security Administration

Improvement of

# Monument To Skill Of 871 Craftsmen

To Provide For  
Farm Research,  
Trade, Education

Staff Correspondence  
NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — The completion of the Newport News homesteads under auspices of the Farm Security Administration — now officially known as Aberdeen Gardens—provides an interesting object lesson in vocational guidance, an index for those sincerely concerned about preparing the youths of our race for life.

Surrounded by a greenbelt of verdant forest land and trucking areas on the Aberdeen Road, two and a quarter miles from the city limits of Newport News, the project covers 440 acres, and represents a creditable monument to the skilled ability of trained colored men, over 850 of whom—skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled — put into it their combined knowledge and experiences gained in many schools and industries throughout the nation.

## MONUMENT TO RACE

These 150 garden homes, the streets, electrification, drainage, plumbing beautification, community center and school, etc., symbolize in a constructive way what colored Americans, trained and experienced in certain fields, can accomplish when given equality of opportunity with all Americans.

Vocational guidance has become a major topic in educational circles, accentuated in recent years by the failure of hundreds of race men and women to hold traditional jobs, and to find employment in the higher skilled fields for which they are fitted by ability and training. The brief resume which follows showing the various types of labor required for the Aberdeen project, and the fact that Federal officials had to recruit the skilled employees particularly from many states, often after much difficulty and travail, should be of some help

to those schools and educators now engaged in pointing the way to future employment for graduates.

## ROLL OF HONOR

According to information supplied the Journal and Guide by A. A. Mercy, assistant director, division of information, Farm Security Administration, the various types of labor used on the Newport News project at the time of peak employment, April 16-30, 1937, were as follows:

**APPOINTIVE:** One resident engineer; one assistant resident engineer; one clerk of works; one superintendent of construction; two foremen; one field engineer; one assistant field engineer; three junior engineers; one transitman; one nurse; one cost accountant; one compensation officer; three timekeepers; two material clerks; two material checkers; two clerk typists; three payroll clerks; one accounting clerk; one clerk-stenographer; one guard; and one chauffeur.

**SKILLED LABOR:** One bricklayer foreman; one mechanical equipment foreman; one plumber foreman; one plumber foreman; one blacksmith foreman; 19 skilled labor foremen; 43 bricklayers; 84 carpenters; 14 plumbers; 26 painters; two electricians; two gas engineer mechanics; four operators; two cement finishers; 19 bottom men; one blacksmith; 2 second bricklayers; 42 second plumbers; 111 second class bottom men; 64 second class carpenters; one second sheet metal worker; two gas engine operators; one sheet metal worker; one second class electrician.

**SEMI-SKILLED:** 14 Unskilled labor foremen; six truck drivers; four teamsters; four pipelayers; 32 hod carriers; 47 plumbers helpers; one electrician helper; 11 carpenter helpers; two brick apprentices; two carpenter apprentices; one mixer operator; one fireman; 15 watchmen; 170 common laborers; 11 guards; three linesmen, and one helper.

There are 52 three-room houses; 80 of four rooms; and 26 of five rooms, all two stories high, with brick veneer walls, concrete foundations, wood shingle roofs, and well insulated. The housing plan provides for future expansion, and for the production of supplemental income to a large proportion of the homesteaders by means of individual garden units. Each family unit comprises a brick house with attached garage-laundry, situated upon its individual tract of three-eighths to one-half acre of land, measuring on an average of 75 feet frontage and 280 feet depth; all fenced and landscaped. State health officials have approved the sewerage system which connects with the county system. Water is obtained from the Newport News water system.

## FACILITIES PLANNED

At the community center dedicated Sunday, facilities will be made for

trade, recreation, education of child and adult, and other phases of community life. A laboratory for Home Economics is now functioning under the direction of Mrs. G. D. Stephens of Howard University, and a laboratory for agricultural research will be instituted later. Each family is approved by a committee on family selection, headed by Leonard M. Hill, family specialist and sociologist. No family is admitted whose social background, attitudes, ability to adapt, health, income, and size of family, are not in keeping with the standards required.

## Owner-Tenant Pact Required In Cotton Loan

## New FSA Rule Aimed At Shifting Population; To Supply Advances

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The feature of the standard leases is a requirement that landlords compensate tenants for any permanent improvements on farms, if the leases are terminated.

Another requires that the tenant and landlord participate in government crop control and marketing programs.

Officials said the standard lease resulted from more than three years of experience in making these small loans to farm families in the relief class.

Oftentimes, they said, when the tenant increased his income a few hundred dollars a year, the landlord increased the rent accordingly. As a result the government program subsidized landlords rather than low-income farmers, they said.

Automatic renewals under the new

lease are expected to end these complaints, the officials added.

The FSA and its predecessor, the Resettlement Administration, have made the small loans to more than 600,000 farm families.

Officials said the farmer usually needed five years to repay these loans, and the new leases were intended to provide rental agreements for this period.

## NEW PROTECTION FOR TENANTS IS U.S. FARM POLICY

## Landlord Pledge Not To Increase Rent Part Of Loan Terms

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**Migratory Tenants**  
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**Rental Increases Cited**  
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hundred dollars a year, the landlord increased the rent accordingly.

As a result the government program subsidized landlords rather than low-income farmers, they said.

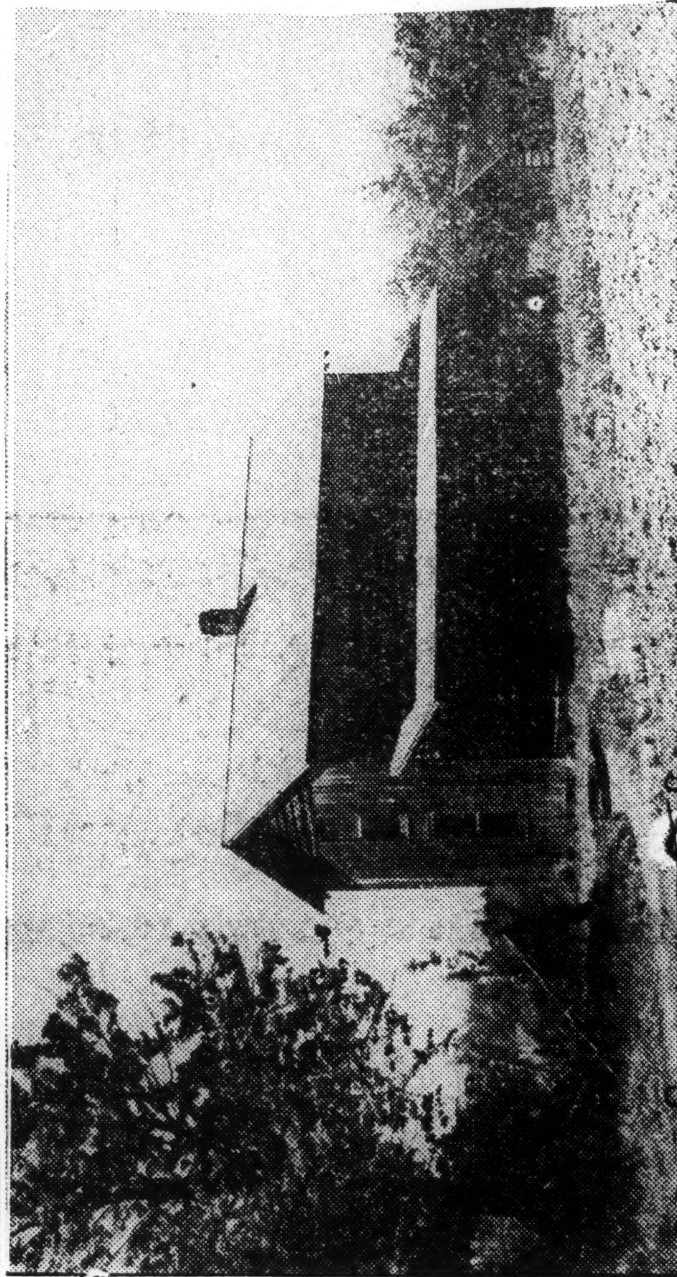
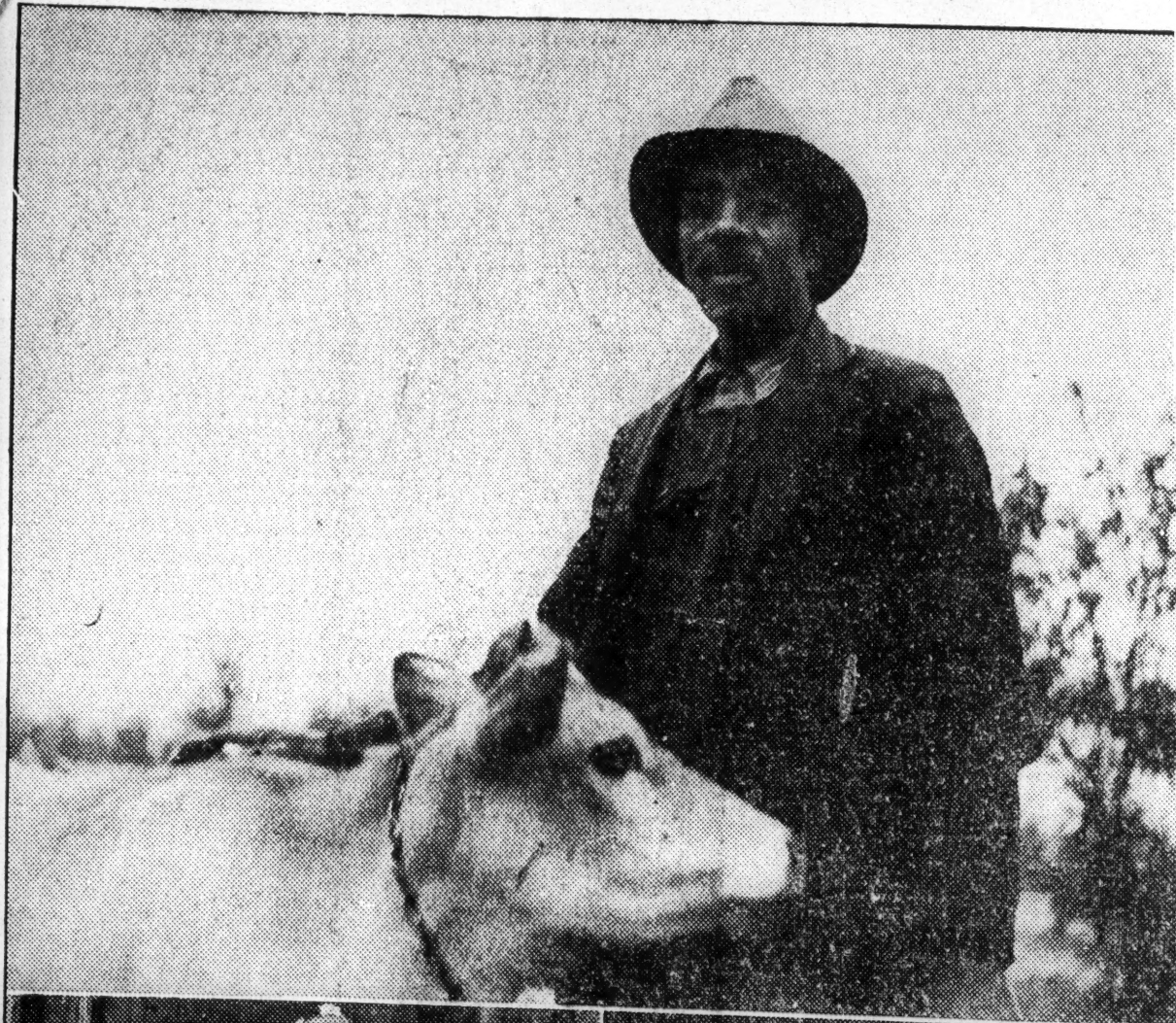
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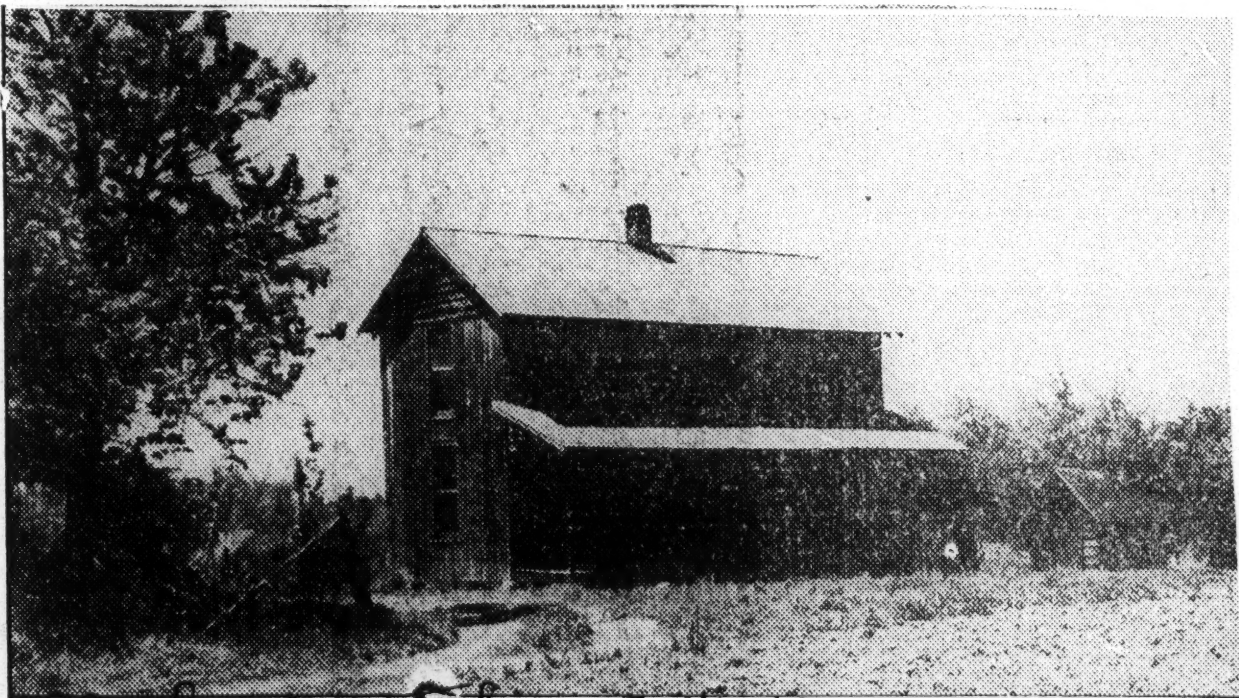
# Tenant Farmer Purchases Land With Government Loan



*Black 100 patch 7-16-38*  
 One of the first farmers to participate in the farm ownership program of the Farm Security Administration, Nat. Williamson, North Carolina farmer, obtained a \$3,000 loan this spring with which he purchased a 92-acre farm and remodeled part of the house and remodeled above. Top, Nat. Williamson with one of his cows; center left, Mrs. Williamson; center right, Gwendolyn and James Donald, two of the Williamson children; bottom, the farmhouse on the new farm land. It was remodeled.



Tenant Farmer Purchases Land With Government Loan



*Black Dispatch 7-16-38*  
 One of the first farmers to participate in the farm ownership program of the Farm Security Administration, Nat Williamson, North Carolina farmer, obtained a \$3,000 loan this spring with which he purchased a 92-acre farm and remodeled part of the house and barn. Pictured above are: Top, Nat Williamson with one of his cows; center left, Mrs. Williamson; center right, Gwendolyn and James Donald, two of the Williamson children; bottom, the farmhouse on the new farm before it was remodeled.



Agriculture - 1938  
Improvement of

# First U. S. Tenant Loan Given Alabama Farmer

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—(P)—A 58-

year-old Alabama cotton farmer and father of 12 children will receive the first government loan for purchase of a farm under the Bankhead-Jones Tenant-Aid Act, the Agriculture Department announced today.

It is Wiley J. Langley, of Walker county—the home county of Senator John H. Bankhead (D), Alabama, co-author of the legislation authorizing Government loans to deserving tenants and sharecroppers for purchase of homes.

Langley's loan will be the first of 2,100 expected to be made throughout the country between now and July 1 from a \$10,000,000 appropriation. The tenant act authorizes appropriations for \$25,000,000 in 1939 and \$50,000,000 annually thereafter for similar loans.

The purpose of the program, officials said, is to retard a national drift toward agricultural tenancy. Latest estimates place the number of tenant farmers at about 2,500,000, or 42 per cent of the total farm population.

The Langley loan will be for \$3,800, of which \$3,000 is to be used for purchase of an 180-acre farm on which the family now lives. The balance is to be used to repair buildings on the land and for fencing. The loan will be repayable over a 40-year period at three per cent interest.

The farmer will receive an additional short term loan of \$676 to liquidate debts, buy new farm machinery and finance farming operations this year.

Under the terms of the loan, Langley will operate the farm on a "homestead management plan" of diversified farming outlined by the Farm Security Administration. He will be required to raise garden products, poultry, live stock feed, fruits and keep dairy cattle as well as grow cotton.

The check for the loan will be presented to Langley by Senator Hill (D), Alabama, on Feb. 12, at the Bankhead farms, a Farm Security Administration project near the farm Langley proposes to purchase.

## Tenant Gets Ample Aid In Purchase Of Farm

MANCHESTER, ALA., Feb. 2.—(P)—Wiley J. Langley, a 58-year-old farmer of 20 years' experience who became today the first man in the United States to secure a tenant-aid loan

for purchase of a farm of his own, is assured "plenty of help."

Four of Langley's 12 children are boys still at home, ranging from 11 to 22 years of age, and they want to stay on the farm with their father.

Langley has been strictly a cotton farmer.

The farm to be purchased by Langley consists of approximately 180 acres, only 55 of which was in cultivation at the time it was appraised; however, since that time Langley and his family have cleared an additional 20 acres that will be in cultivation in 1938.

It is located in a good community, close to good markets, school, and roads. It is a typical livestock farm, though farmed largely as a cotton farm in the past.

R. R. Bailey, Southeastern farm management specialist for the Farm Security Administration, which handles tenant-aid loans, outlined plans for development of the Langley farm, thus:

### Cotton Only Cash Crop

"It was impractical, if not impossible, to make a farm plan for 1938 that could be considered ideal due to the change of program for the borrower and the farm. You will note that most of the income for 1938 will come from the one cash crop: cotton.

Since the farm is only allowed 16 acres of cotton (four acres a plow) under the soil conservation program, the total income will naturally be far below what it should and will be in future years, even though the past production was approximately a bale an acre. The plan for 1938 provides for the production of a large amount of both grain and roughage with the view of increasing livestock production on the farm each year until it is sufficient to consume the surplus feed that will be produced.

"Careful consideration has been given to soil building and soil conserving practices for 1938 by the introduction for the first time on this farm of vetch, crimson clover, and a simple two-year crop rotation. The farm plan provides ample acreage for the production of garden and truck crops for home use, also for the planting of a home orchard. At present the farm has no fruit trees of any kind.

"In addition to the field crops, the plan calls for the purchase of two brood sows which will give the borrower a start in the production of livestock as a cash crop, to supplement cotton.

To Aid Disabled Kin  
"It will be observed that the borrower has an income of \$500 annually from the government for caring for a disabled brother-in-law. This is of

course, unusual and should not be considered as a part of the farm income. The income from the sale of crops and livestock will be sufficient to pay all farm and home operating expenses plus the annual payment and taxes on the farm.

"The borrower is well equipped with work stock and farming equipment; however, we find that all chattels were mortgaged to the extent of \$1,082.12. This amount was adjusted down to \$400 which is set up in the farm plan to be paid immediately. Sufficient subsistence livestock are available adequately to supply the family for 1938.

"Looking ahead four to five years with this farm and family we should find conditions much different from the present. The farm income should be doubled by the addition of new cash crops such as crimson clover for seed production, and livestock, principally hogs. The farm operating expense will also be considerably reduced. In addition to the above improved conditions the family will be producing a living at home that will be far above the average and will have cash surplus enough to enjoy many of the conveniences of farm life that the average farmer never enjoys."

## Negro Farm Units Are Progressing

### Flint Re-Settlement Project Has 77 Families

MONTEZUMA, Ga., Feb. 4.—The Flint River Farms, Negro Re-settlement project, being developed in Macon county by the Farm Security Administration of the Department of Agriculture, is in operation this year and 77 two-horse farms are being operated by as many families, according to Amos H. Ward, community manager. Most of these families came from Macon and Dooley counties and approximately 50 per cent of them were already on the land when it was purchased by the government.

The area being purchased consists of 10,655 acres and when the project is complete it will consist of 107 farm units. All abstracts are in good shape, it is said. Additional tracts of land are paid for, additional contracts will be let for the building of barns and farm houses. Bids were open today for buildings for 12 additional farm units. Where it can be done, old houses are being repaired and all houses will be put in good condition. The building program will be continuous until the 107 farm units are completed. It is thought that approximately 75 per cent of the farms will be in operation this year.

All mules and farm implements are bought locally and over 100 mules have already been purchased from local dealers. These purchases are made by the individual farmers and are approved by the Farm Security Administration. Alonzo M. Fields, farm supervisor, has been employed to promote an educational program through group meetings of the farmers, and Evelyn Driver, Tuskegee graduate, is home supervisor. An effort will be made to put into effect a live-at-home program.

## Jasper Man First To Feel U. S. Farm Tenancy Plan

JASPER, ALA., Feb. 11.—(P)—The first step in a nation-wide campaign to supplant farm tenancy with land ownership will be taken here tomorrow when a Government check for \$3,300 is given Wiley J. Langley, 58-year-old father of 12.

Langley, a tenant-cotton grower, will use the money to buy a 180-acre farm. The first such purchase under the Bankhead-Jones act provided \$10,000,000 to begin a long range battle against the tenant system that students of rural America blame for a host of economic and social handicaps.

For Langley and his family, the step will not mean any drastic revision in work, since the land he purchased is the same they worked last year.

Payments Over 40 Years  
Repayment to the Farm Security Administration, however, will be less than the rent costs under the tenant arrangement. Interest will be 3 per cent, with repayments divided over 40 years.

Langley's farm is just outside Jasper, home of Senator John H. Bankhead (D), Alabama, who introduced the legislation under which the loan will be made. Pressing business in Washington, however, will prevent Bankhead's attendance at ceremony here, and the check will be presented by Senator Hill (D), Alabama, after Dr. Will W. Alexander, national FSA Administrator, and other officials speak.

State Third In Nation  
While Alabama ranks third in percentage of farm tenancy, with only 31 per cent of its farms owner-operated, the community in which Langley lives is not one of tenants. Walker County's farms, Federal figures show, are 65 per cent owner-operated.

The Langley farm plan for 1938 provides for beginning a program of diversification to end the "one crop" system formerly practiced.

Cotton will remain the principal cash crop, however, with added emphasis being placed on livestock and feed-stuffs.

The Langley agreement with the FSA provides aid from the FSA county supervisor, the county agent and State agricultural college specialists in working out a farm program designed to stabilize income and provide soil-building crops where necessary.

## Credit Unions Discussed At South Boston

Dr. H. A. Hunt  
Tells Farmers Of  
Federal Services

4-9-38  
(Special to Journal and Guide)

SOUTH BOSTON, Va.—Farmers, ministers, business and professional men as well as representatives from nearly every walk of life heard Dr. H. A. Hunt, assistant to the governor, Farm Credit Administration, outline the services of the federal government which are made available to farmers through the FCA, in an address in the recently enlarged auditorium of the Halifax County Training School, March 28. Dr. Hunt's appearance here was sponsored by the local branch of the NAACP.

The three main phases of the Farm Credit Administration's service are: (1) federal credit unions, including cooperative thrift and loan associations, and state credit unions. These are serviceable to farmers as well as other groups; (2) federal land bank loans and land commissioner loans, covering 12 districts; and (3) loans by pro-



duction credit associations by which Williamson, Guilford County share farmers and livestock raisers may enter, will receive the second loan secure loans by giving first liens to be made in this region under on crops or livestock as security. The Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act, the Farm Security Administration announced last week. Regional officials of the FSA believe that Mr. Williamson is the first Negro to receive one of these loans in the United States.

Dr. Hunt concluded by emphasizing the desire of the government to assist in getting needed help to insure success of the farmers' work. He further stated that letters to his office concerning additional information and advice would receive sympathetic and immediate attention.

#### OUTLINE PLANS

Dr. Hunt was introduced by the Rev. W. M. Grant of the executive board of the NAACP branch. J. S. Carrington, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. branch acted as master of ceremonies. Devotions were conducted by the Rev. W. J. Beard and S. C. Coleman.

Dr. Don V. Estill, president of the local branch NAACP, presented a tentative outline of the year's work for the local branch, which includes a drive for more registration, more voting and for more interest in the county. He called attention to the assistance that might be obtained from the federal and local governments in improving cemeteries and church grounds, establishing playgrounds and recreation centers, improving or building schools and libraries. Dr. Estill pointed out the need for better wages and conditions of farmers and farm helpers and domestics in the county.

Others on the program were: Dr. L. W. Smith, member of the executive board; Mrs. Ethel Henly, chairman of the New Crusade Committee; M. F. Harris, chairman of the membership committee; C. Crawford, C. Lewis, L. Watkins, J. M. Mosley, J. B. James; Misses I. M. Brodie and Kate Boxley, Willis White, W. A. Chiles, Miss A. C. Benton, who supplied musical numbers.

Among the visitors from out of the county were: the Rev. H. W. McNair, president of the Ingleside-Fee Institute, Burkeville.

**To Receive  
Gov't Check  
For \$2,980**

**FSA Supervisors  
To Aid With Farm,  
Home Plans**

GREENSBORO, N. C. — Nat

Greensboro, N. C. News  
April 23, 1938

## Negro Sharecropper Will Get Federal Loan of \$2,980 For Purchasing Farm



Nat Williamson (left) is informed by E. H. Anderson, Guilford county FSA supervisor, that his \$2,980 farm purchase loan has been approved.

Greensboro, N. C. Record  
April 22, 1938

## NEGRO OBTAINS LOAN FOR FARM

**Guilford Man First Negro In  
United States to Get FSA  
Aid For Purchase**

A Guilford county negro sharecropper will receive what is believed to be the first land purchase loan to a member of his race in the nation, it was announced yesterday by Edgar H. Anderson, of Greensboro, county supervisor of the farm security administration.

The recipient, Nat Williamson, who resides 17 miles east of Greensboro, was notified yesterday that his application for a \$2,980 loan had been approved by regional officials and he may proceed with plans to purchase a 97-acre farm costing \$2,350—with the remaining \$650 to be devoted to repairs and the construction of new farm buildings.

Williamson is the second man in this region—which comprises North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia—to receive a loan under the new Bankhead-Jones farm tenant act. The first recipient also was a Guilford county farmer—J. E. Jessup, white tenant residing near Liberty.

The 48-year-old negro has been following approved farming methods, FSA officials were advised, and looks forward to happier days on land he owns. He has 40 years in which to pay his debt, with interest set at 3 per cent.

The Farm Security administration announced today that Nat Williamson, 48 year old Guilford county

negro share renter, will receive the second loan to be made in this five state region under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant act. Regional FSA officials believe that Williamson is the first negro to receive one of these loans in the United States.

Edgar H. Anderson, Greensboro, Guilford county FSA supervisor, notified Williamson today that his loan had been approved and authorized him to accept the option on the 97 acre farm he is to buy. Williamson will receive a check for \$2,980. The land will cost \$2,350 and \$650 will be spent in repairs to the

house and barn, including two new rooms to the dwelling.

#### Loan For Forty Years.

The loan is for 40 years with interest at 3 per cent. A variable payment plan will enable the family to make lighter payments in poor crop years, making up the difference in good crop years.

Williamson, born on a rented farm in Caswell county has been a tenant most of his life. But just prior to the 1929 depression he contracted to buy a farm. He paid \$500 down and had made payments on interest and on principal of more than a thousand dollars when the hard years came. He couldn't make the heavy payments and the farm was lost. Both Williamson and the county committee of three farmers who recommended him for a loan, think that he will have a better chance for success under the low-interest, variable payment plan of the FSA.

To aid the farmer in making a success of his loan county FSA supervisors have assisted him in making out sound farm and home plans. These plans are based on the earning capacity of the family and the farm, and include crop rotation, the raising of food and feed crops and other good farming practices.

W. B. Harrison, negro extension agent for Guilford county and S. B. Simmons, negro vocational director, have also offered to help Williamson at any time he desires aid in solving his farm problems.

## Missouri Farm Project Success

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25—(ANP)—Half-way through their first season, the 100 families, 50 of which are Negro, on the Southeast Missouri project of the Farm Security administration, are already showing definite signs of progress.

Aided by weather conditions that have been more than favorable, the majority of the families have raised large gardens and canned more than 200 quarts per family of the surplus fruits and vegetables. In addition, the cooperative store on the project in whose profits the families will all share is doing a brisk business both with the project families and the farmers in the surrounding area.



# ARE STEEL HOUSES THE ANSWER?

## 2 Tenant Farmer Projects Combined

Yesterday The Advertiser printed what may well become a historic announcement.

The Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company delivered to the Farm Security Administration twelve units of all-steel prefabricated farm buildings. They are to be erected at the direction of the FSA on farms in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina.

Several years ago the company began experimenting with all-steel houses, and the first one was constructed a couple of years ago on the Birmingham-Montgomery highway, just over the mountain from the Magic City. Thousands of persons have gone through this house, which is now inhabited, and have marveled at its excellence.

Engineers of the TCI have devoted a great deal of time since the construction of this house to experimental work. An effort has been made to bring the cost down to a satisfactory level, for the primary aim is that steel houses shall be made available for rural families.

Recently the FSA became interested in the idea of pre-fabricated all-steel houses, and yesterday the first order of this government agency was filled. It is believed that the houses can be put together with little effort and without the need of much skilled labor. Homes, barns and chicken houses have been designed.

Is this the answer to the rural housing problem of the South? If it is TCI and FSA will deserve Congressional medals. Of all the people in the world those now living in the poorest dwellings are the farmers of this part of the country. Thousands of farm homes are in a miserable state of disrepair; many of them are so far gone that they can never be repaired. Many new frame dwellings are unsatisfactory—and costly.

Steel houses, of course, will hardly be inexpensive at first, though the TCI claims that the cost of these buildings has been brought "down to a competing level with buildings of other materials." Mass production would bring the cost down even further, and delivery charges in the South would not be great, considering Birmingham's centralized location.

Moreover, the houses should last indefinitely, and cost practically nothing to keep up. The FSA and the TCI should by all means continue their studies in low-cost steel housing. They may have something that will revolutionize rural life in the United States.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Nov. 19.—

(AP)—E. B. Whitaker, assistant regional director of the Farm Security Administration, today announced consolidation of Mississippi Delta Farms and Sunflower Plantation. Government farm ownership developments for northwestern Mississippi tenants.

Otis B. Cassanova, Cleveland, manager of the Delta Farms project, was appointed manager of the consolidated unit with Sam H. Starnes, manager at the Sunflower Plantation, as assistant manager.

The consolidation was effected to reduce administrative costs and promote efficiency of management of the projects, which are being run together, Whitaker said.

Whitaker said the consolidated project would embrace 15,759 acres mostly in Bolivar, Sunflower and Coahoma Counties, and would eventually have 300 farmsteads for occupation by selected tenant farmers under 40-year purchase agreements.

## T. C. I. Ships 2 All-Steel Farm Units For FSA

### Structures To Be Tested To Determine Their Use As Dwellings

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Nov. 21.—

(AP)—The first two of a dozen all-steel farm units—10 with five buildings each—were shipped today by the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company to be picked by the Farm Security Administration in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina.

Southeastern F. S. A. headquarters at Montgomery said the units were to serve "as an experimental determination, by actual living experience, the advantages of metallic construction" of farm buildings in connection with its tenant purchase program and other rural activities.

The buildings are produced here to specifications of the F. S. A. chief engineer's office and will be erected in the following areas: Ashwood, S. C., Orangeburg, S. C., Flint River, Ga., Jackson County, Ga., Butts County, Ga., Macon County, Ala., and Walker County, Ala.

T. C. I. and F. S. A. authorities predicted all would be erected and ready for use by Feb. 1.

The cost of an erected five-room

dwellings was estimated by F. S. A. to range from \$1,695 to \$1,904. The barns, turned out in two types, cost from \$688 to \$900; poultry houses from \$154 to \$167, smoke houses from \$133 to \$142, and privies from \$53 to \$58.

The dwellings contain a living room, three bedrooms, and combination kitchen and dining room. Two large closets and a pantry are included and space is available for a bathroom if desired. Approximately six tons of steel are used.

All of the foundation structure, the frame, sides, roof, exterior door, and window trims and fireplace are of steel. Floors and doors are of wood. An insulating wall board is used as interior finish for the walls and ceilings.

Approximately 12 and one-half tons of steel is required for the unit of five buildings. The outbuildings are constructed entirely of steel.

Complete prefabrication enables swift erection of the buildings by the bolting together of the panels.

If the home owner wishes to add a room, this is done by making the dimensions in multiples of four, such as 8 by 12 feet, 12 by 16 feet, etc.

The two units shipped today went to a site belonging to the Alabama Tenant Security Project in Walker County, near Jasper, home of Senator John H. Bankhead and House Speaker William B. Bankhead, both proponents of legislation designed to aid the farmer.

The remaining 10 units will be consigned as follows, the F. S. A. said:

Two to the Georgia Tenant Security Project, one to be erected near Jackson, in Butts County, the other in Jackson County, near the town of Winder.

Two to the Flint River Farms Project in South Carolina, both to be erected near Montezuma, in Macon County.

Two to the Ashwood Plantation Project in South Carolina, both to be erected near Bishopville, in Lee County.

Two to the Prairie Farms Project in Alabama, both to be erected near Tysonville, in Macon County.

Both Jasper units are expected to be ready for occupancy within five weeks.

The barns embrace a corn crib, two divisions for animals, a section for storing tools and a hay loft.

## LA. FARM CONDITIONS

### Qualified Tenants Ejected Who Do Not Follow Methods

(From Black Dispatch)

New Orleans—(ANP)—Examples of attempts at farm peonage of Negro tenant farmers in West Feliciana

parish were expressed through the refusal of parish officials to accept farm Security Administration loans, and the ejection of Negro tenant farmers who are too prosperous or who refuse to buy from the landlord's commissary.

This parish was among those designated to receive FSA aid for their farmers, and is reported to have refused because Negroes would be benefited. Negro tenants that applied for loans were told by Milard Springs, parish supervisor of FSA, that he knew of no such loans being made. When approached by representatives of the Louisiana Farmers Union he said that no one was qualified.

In some parishes the use of one of the regulations is being emphasized to refuse the tenants' applications. This regulation states that, "emphasis will be placed on the ownership of sufficient stock, and family equipment to operate a family size farm, and the ability of the borrower to make a down payment." As many farmers in the parish pay a yearly rent of from \$85 to \$100 and buy their equipment and improve their homes and property, this regulation would not disqualify them. Of these conditions Gordon McIntyre of the Farmers Union, stated, "FSA, due to lack of national policy that could protect such cases, is failing to reach them."

### Tenants Forced to Buy and Sell to Landlords.

Investigation revealed that Negro tenants in the parish are limited to the number of livestock they may raise by the landlord. Recently an unidentified Negro who did not buy at the commissary and who sold livestock without giving the landlord the first preference was ejected. A law recently passed by the state legislature permits the landlord to eject the tenant, and with the parishes refusing FSA loans the tenant is in a sad plight. Attention was attracted to the poorly provided schools for Negroes in the parish. There is not



# FARM FAMILIES MAKE GOOD ON NORTH CAROLINA PROJECT

## Twenty-four Colored Families Benefit from FSA's Help-the-Farmer Plan

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 8—(AN P)—Twenty-four Negro families are harvesting crops, this fall, on the North Carolina Farm Tenant Security Project of the Farm Security administration, in eastern North Carolina. Tobacco, a principal cash crop, cut in August and flue-cured, is already on the market.

buying their farmsteads. As on all farm security projects, farming programs include plans for crop rotation, erosion control, subsistence gardens, and the raising of ample livestock. More than one cash crop is always raised, a practice which lessens the chances of loss from climatic conditions or low markets.

Good houses, barns and out-buildings are on each farm. Where families have come in without sufficient livestock, farm equipment or household necessities, short term loans have been made to them to supply these deficiencies.

Ail land bought for the projects is carefully checked for soil type and production records. Only land on which the average yield per acre is satisfactory is purchased. This care in purchasing means that families previously living in poverty on worn-out land are assured of a fair chance for success on the government project—and the government's funds are safe-guarded.

The farm home of Walter Pate is typical of other farms on the North Carolina project. Pate, who is 40 years old, moved on his 77-acre project farm in 1938. All his life he had been sharecropping around the neighboring country, accumulating what he could—two cows, a heifer, some hogs, a few chickens and a few household furnishings.

The Pate family moved into a house costing \$1300, with a smoke-house and poultry house costing \$100 each, a \$450 stock barn and \$350 tobacco barn. The prospective owner was loaned \$650 for stock, fencing, farm equipment, seed, fertilizer and subsistence for his family of eleven. He bought the farm stuff himself and got good bargains. Rental arrangements are 25 percent of cash crops with an additional \$15 for pasture. The whole payment

must not be less than \$160.

This farmer has 20 acres under cultivation and is doing well. The Pates are typical of the progress being made by these families, many of whom are already beginning to buy their places.

The scattered locations of these infiltration project farms, among neighboring farms on similar soil, operated under the same general conditions as to climate and market, make them especially useful demonstrations of the FSA program for helping the nation's farmers.

## Farm Security Staff To Gather At 'Skegee F.S.A. STAFF HOLDS CONFAB A/T TUSKEGEE

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—(SNS)—A national meeting of headquarters and field representatives of the Farm Security Administration is being held here this week, in connection with Tuskegee's 48th annual Negro Farm and Home Week Conference.

Forty Negro farm and home management supervisors, project nurses, community managers and cooperative store managers, working with the Farm Security rehabilitation, tenant-purchase and homestead program, who have been attending Tuskegee conference sessions early this week, will meet, Thursday, to discuss Farm Security activities with representatives from the National Office of FSA.

Regional Director R. W. Hudgins, from Fifth Region headquarters at Montgomery, Alabama; Director T. Roy Reid from the Sixth Region; Major J. O. Walker, director of the Resettlement Division, FSA; Joseph H. B. Evans, administrative assistant and Race Relations Adviser at Washington; Mrs. Constance E. H. Daniel, Information Adviser, Division of Information, FSA, Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Nellie B. Hopkins, secretary to Mr. Evans, will meet with the field staff Thursday.

Joseph H. B. Evans, Race Relations Specialist, will preside over a special meeting of Negro staff members, Friday, when special problem affecting the Negro personnel of the Farm Security Administration will be discussed.

## Sessions Part of Farm Conference

TUSKEGEE, Dec. 15— (ANP)—A national meeting of headquarters and field representatives of the Farm Security administration is being held here this week in connection with Tuskegee's annual Negro Farm and Home Week conference.

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**Leaders in Attendance**  
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Region; Major J. O. Walker, director of the Resettlement Division, FSA; Joseph B. Evans, administrative assistant and Race Relations Adviser at Washington; Mrs. Constance E. H. Daniel, Information Adviser, Division of Information, FSA, Washington, D. C.; and Mrs. Nellie B. Hopkins, secretary to Mr. Evans, will meet with the field staff Thursday.

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Nashville, Tenn. Banner  
November 29, 1938

## Seven Fayette Tenants Picked To Buy Farms

Somerville, Tenn., Nov. 29—(Special)—The Farm Security Administration's advisory committee has selected seven Fayette County farmers for whom farms will be purchased under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, according to Frank B. Felts, county FSA supervisor.

The seven are Andrew F. Rogers, Belmont; Elmo Stroup, Grand Junction, and Robert W. Stafford, Oakland, white farmers; and Richard Sidney Maclin, Belmont; King W. Fields, Belmont; Daniel Williamson, Somerville, and George Bryan, Somerville, Negroes.



# Former Sharecroppers Making Good On Federal North Carolina Project

## 40-Year-Old Walter Pate Is Model on Farm Housing Workers of Both Races

Twenty-four Negro families are all large enough to produce, if properly handled, an income that will enable these tenants to live decently and healthfully, according to American standards, while buying their farmsteads.

The farms on which these families together with sixty-two white families, or having more, bought outright by the Federal government and will be resold to the families now located on them, as soon as they have proved themselves capable of farm ownership. Some of the families accepted as tenants already lived on desirable land, and in many cases these farms were bought by the government, enabling the renter to come into the project without moving.

### 7,000 ACRES

Unlike the projects at Southeast Missouri or Lakeview, Arkansas, the North Carolina Farm Tenant Security is of the infiltration type, consisting of scattered farms in well-established farming communities, spread over more than 7,000 acres of selected farm land in seven counties.

Although set up, for the most part, on separate tracts, all farms on the project are operated under a common management, each farmer working on a trial basis to prove his ownership ability.

On qualifying for ownership, the client begins to buy his farm on terms which approximate the usual rentals on tenant farms. An 83-acre farm costing \$7,000 can be bought for \$160 a year, over a period of 40 years, at three per cent interest.

### TRACTS VARY IN SIZE

The tracts vary in size, but are all large enough to produce, if properly handled, an income that will enable these tenants to live decently and healthfully, according to American standards, while buying their farmsteads.

As on all Farm Security projects, farming programs include plans for crop rotation, erosion control, subsistence gardens, and the raising of ample livestock. More than one cash crop is always raised, a practice which lessens the chances of loss from climatic conditions or low markets.

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### PATE AN EXAMPLE

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a \$350 tobacco barn. The prospective owner was loaned \$620 for stock, fencing, farm equipment, seed, fertilizer and subsistence for his family of eleven. He bought the farm stuff himself and got good bargains. Rental arrangements are these, 25 per cent of cash crops with an additional \$15 for pasture. The North Carolina was first in the whole payment must be not less than \$160.

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The scattered locations of these infiltration project farms, among neighboring farms on similar soil, operated under the same general condition as to climate and market, make them especially useful demonstrations of the Farm Security Administration's program for helping the nation's farmers.

Weldon, N. C. News  
September 29, 1938

## Tenant Farmers Apply For 14,824 FSA Loans

### APPLICATIONS FOR LOANS TO BUY FARMS POUR IN FROM FIVE STATES

Applications have been filed by 14,824 tenant farmers in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia for loans to buy farms under the tenant purchase program of the Farm Security Administration, C. Carter Chase, Chief of the Tenant Purchase Section, announced today.

"Applications have been received from 124 of the 133 designated counties," Mr. Chase said. "This shows an average of 120 applicants per county. Nine counties not yet reported should raise the total of tenants seeking loans well above 15,000."

Report for the period ending

September 17 showed Tennessee in the lead with an average of 202 applications per county, with only 23 of the 31 designated counties reported. Applications from Tennessee total 4,641. Of these, 3,588 were white tenants and 1,053 were Negroes.

Kentucky, with all 21 designated counties reported, showed a total of 2,201 applications or an average of 105 per county. Of these, 2,166 were white and only 36 Negroes.

Virginia turned in 1,934 applications for an average of 81 in all of the 24 designated counties. Of these 1508 were white and 426 Negroes. West Virginia with only seven designated counties turned in 300 applications for an average of 56 in each county.

White tenant applications totaled 11,582; Negro 3,174 and Indians, 68.



**Mr. McElderry, Who Has Managed a Farm Since He Was 18 Years Old, Believes That He Has Solution to 'Age Old Problem.'**

SARASOTA, Fla., Dec. 1—While statesmen and diplomats are attempting to solve the problem of finding a homeland for the exiled Jews of Germany, 84-year-old G. T. McElderry of Sarasota has been corresponding with persons throughout the country attempting to solve the "Negro problem."

Mr. McElderry, who according to his own words is now 84 years old, has been in charge of a 3,300-acre plantation since he was 18 years old.

"For 50 years I have been trying to put this across," Mr. McElderry says. "I believe that the only way for the Negroes in the South to live and become an asset instead of a liability, is for them to become owners of farms."

The aged farmer believes that it is the job of the Democratic party to put a plank in its platform declaring a "Square Deal" for the Negroes. It is also his belief that hundreds of dollars now being "thrown away" should be used for purchasing equipment for farms for Negroes.

"If my plan is put through," Mr. McElderry says, "these farms would be directed by scientifically trained Negroes from Negro colleges and universities and Negroes would have their own communities, schools and churches." According to Mr. McElderry, he has communicated with "Vice-President Garner, who is my candidate for President in 1940," Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, and both are in accord with his plans.

In his communication to various executives in the country, Mr. McElderry explained that there are hundreds of millions of acres of good farmland that do not pay state and county taxes. "These idle lands would, if owned by Negroes under my plan, make excellent homes and make Negroes independent and self respecting citizens."



Improvement  
MAGNOLIA (ARKE DANNER)  
SEPT. 8, 1938

THREE COLORED BOYS IN  
OUTSTANDING RECORDS

Warrenton, N. C. Record  
September 2, 1938

NEGRO BOY WINS  
NATIONAL HONOR

Warren Youth Wins Title Of  
Superior Farmer In Na-  
tional Farm Contest

CAUSE FOR THE AWARD

On April 29, 1938, three boys, Cleophis and Arthur Lawson and Augustus Stovall, left Friendship community for Hope, where they engaged in a judging contest. This contest consists of judging hogs, poultry, mules, dairy cow, corn, sweet and Irish potatoes. These three boys went up against 36 other boys from Clark, Hempstead, Lafayette, Ouachita, Union, Nevada, and Howard counties. Out of the 39 boys, Cleophis and Arthur Lawson and Augustus Stovall won. There were five other such judging teams over the state as this one which had a winning team just as this district. These three boys met the other winning teams from the five other districts June 3-4 at Pine Bluff. They judged the same things as they did in their districts, and Cleophis and Arthur, and Augustus Stovall won at the state meet.

The winning of the state meet gave the boys a trip to Savannah, Ga., which trip they took August 20, 1938. At this place these three boys went up against 17 other states: Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, South and North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey, Missouri, Maryland, Florida, and Delaware.

This trip took the boys over 1800 miles without any cost to them. R. D. Johnson, their instructor, who is the coach of this team, is the principal of Friendship School from which school these boys came. This trip carried the boys through three states and Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and Georgia State College at Savannah, Georgia. Also the boys were given a ride on a steamboat up the Savannah river cross Broad river to Beaufort, South Carolina, and from there to St. Helena Island, S. C., one of the oldest Islands in the south.

Next year this meet will be held in New Jersey with all the states named above, together with Arkansas. And in 1940 this meet will be held in Pine Bluff.

Robert Thomas, negro of Warren county, was one of the five young men in the entire United States to receive the degree of Superior Farmer at the National Agricultural Contest held a few days ago in Savannah, Ga., J. L. Bolden, agricultural teacher, stated this week with the added comment, "We feel proud of him for the distinguished honor he brought to Warren county."

The honor was awarded Thomas, Bolden said, because he has demonstrated on his farm that he was able and has put into practice the things learned in agricultural and shop classes while attending the County Training School at Wise. The fact that he was not present at the meeting did not prevent him from receiving the coveted degree.

Thomas Kimbler of the Olive Grove section and Hernande Palmer of the Pine Grove section, also students of the County Training School, made the trip to Savannah with Prof. Bolden and took part in the contest.

Kimble represented the state at the meeting because he made the highest score in the state contest which was held in April of last year. Palmer was given the trip by the Chilean Nitrate of Soda Company because he had the best Supervised Farm Program for this section of the state last year.

There were schools represented at the conference from New Jersey to Texas, Bolden said. He also stated that the boys had a delightful trip and particularly enjoyed a boat ride to St. Helena Island one day which gave them ten hours on the water. Warren county has won the right

to represent the state in national contests for a number of years.

Clinton, N. C. Independent  
November 10, 1938

WAY OF THE MACHINE

An old Negro was watching an experimental cotton-picking machine at work. The late Alexander Legge, farm-machinery manufacturer, said to him: "Uncle Tom, what will happen to your job if they begin picking all the cotton with machines?"

The Negro rolled his eyes in thought. "Boss," he said, "ah don' know. But ah knows dis: whatebber 't is, it caint be harder dan pickin' cotton."

Workers do not always have such fath. Machines have lightened the burdens and increased the output of consumer goods past all recokning; yet every important new machine causes widespread fear. "How many of us," workers ask, "will be thrown out of jobs?" Sometimes efforts have been made to beat the machine by destroying it or denying it. Self-binders were burned in the harvest fields by angry scythemen. Laws were once passed forbidding the use of machinery in making hats.

Machines are not beaten that way. But the facts about technological development are slowly becoming better understood. Machines do throw men out of jobs. But they make more jobs than they destroy. When agriculture, barely a century ago, was still largely an industry of hands, backs, and animal labor, only 258 out of each 1,000 persons were gainfully employed; 215 were agricultural workers. That was in 1820, in the United States. In 1930, in the United States, there were gainful jobs for 397 out of each 1,000; but only 85 of those jobs were in agriculture. Farms had been mechanized. Men who would have been farmers chose other occupations. Thanks to the machine invasion of industry, there were

hundreds of occupations awaiting their potential skills. This is satisfying to know. But another fact must be remembered. Machines make more employment in the long run, but may not create jobs for the particular men they displace; and in the long run, as a social worker put it, a man may starve. For full mastery in the machine age, we still have to give more thought to the problems of the transition period, when new machines make old labor techniques obsolescent. Men are still more important than machines. Even in the short run, they must not starve.—The Rotarian Magazine.

A New Hope for Cotton

Another great attack on the cotton problem was launched in Memphis yesterday. It may turn out the most constructive of all. The growers and handlers of cotton are uniting in the movement. Their purpose is to increase the consumption of this product upon which the whole South is so dependent.

They see the cotton-growing states and their peoples accustomed and geared to the production of this crop. Although for years there has been a large surplus, the promoters of this movement do not believe the fundamental trouble really is overproduction. They know more and more people would be using more and more cotton if economic conditions were more favorable. They know that there is no foreseeable limit to the new uses of cotton that will eventually be developed. They know of no better use for the cotton lands of the South.

So these planters, ginner, storers, sellers and crushers of cotton—the raw cotton men—are joining together to increase consumption. There have, of course, long been separate organizations of these various groups. But yesterday, for the first time in the history of this great industry, representatives of its various primary branches assembled to organize a great inclusive association. They were under the leadership of Oscar Johnston, superintendent of the greatest cotton plantation in this country at Scott, Miss., and former director of

the United States cotton pool.

A national cotton council is to be formed. Fourteen states were represented at the meeting by 83 leaders of various groups.

"The voice of cotton is as soft as its lint and as low as its price," Mr. Johnston says. "We must give cotton a magna-vox with the man power and the money power to make itself heard."

In recent emergency years production control and direct subsidies have been the main means of combating the cotton problem. That this program was helpful in meeting urgent distress there can be no doubt. But it is also clear that mere limitation of production is no final answer to the cotton problem.

Moreover, many students of the question, regarding it from a non-partisan, long-range viewpoint, believe that crop limitation, benefits and loans will lead only to more and more of the same thing and a continuing decrease in foreign markets for cotton.

There has been increasing dissatisfaction in recent months with the various crop quota systems. How far that sentiment has developed will be shown by the referendum to be held Dec. 10 among the cotton planters. They will vote on whether marketing limitations are to be applied to 1939 planters.

It is probable that planter support is still strongly behind the present act in this section of the South, but west of the Mississippi, in the newer and more productive cotton areas, opposition is considerable.

Lately the National Grange, representing some 800,000 members, has shown an increasing outspokenness against compulsory crop control, about which the Grange has never been enthusiastic.

"The farmers of America will never be satisfied with a permanent program based on continuous government control," Louis J. Taber, Grange national master, told the annual convention of the organization last week.

What the new Congress does about crop control will largely depend on the outcome of these referendums.



Unless a strong majority is built up for continuing the present program, it is likely drastic changes will be made.

\* \* \*

But whether or not crop limitation remains a part of the national program, greater consumption should remain the chief objective of the cotton industry. Control of output and benefits might give growers a larger share of the national income. But the more fundamental problem is to obtain for farmers a larger share of a *larger national income*. Increased production is essential to that end.

"The cotton interests have made no organized effort to sell their product," Mr. Johnston says.

Numerous activities to increase consumption are in view for the National Council. Among them will be intensive domestic advertising; the cultivation of good will toward American cotton in foreign markets; stimulation of international commerce; research for new uses and for improvement of manufactured products to increase demand in known uses; steps to improve the quality of American cotton, to combat insects, to foster legislation designed to increase consumption, to oppose legislation designed to limit that consumption, and to bring about more equitable transportation rates between the cotton belt and other parts of this country and between this country and her foreign customers.

\* \* \*

The problem of raising the standard of living is largely a problem, of course, of increasing output, through the development of better, less costly products, and new products. The National Cotton Council is tackling fundamentals. It represents free men acting freely and unitedly to solve their difficulties. It holds great promise.



**New Cotton Picker  
Machine Announced;  
Will Pick Two Rows**

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 22,—(A)—

The development of a mechanical cotton picker described as capable of covering two rows at a time with 95 per cent effectiveness was announced here by A. M. Hanner, president of the Cotton Harvester Corporation of America.

It was pictured as a broad, three-wheeled, tractor-like contraption on rubber tires with tank-like pickers at either side of the engine to whisk the bolls of the stalks to a basket at the rear. *Montgomery,*

Hannauer described the machine as the "culmination of almost 20 years of investigation, experimentation x x x and trial and error. Associated with him are Dr. Hugh A. Gamble, of Greenville, Miss., Charles R. Berry, of Greenville, and Edward A. King, of Pittsburgh.

He said the machine had been tested on the plantation of Dr. Gamble, adding, "We have neither machines or stock to sell at this time." *Ala.*

Another cotton picking machine has been developed by John and Mack Rust, Memphis, Tenn., brothers, and demonstrated in this country. Early this year the Rusts took their picker to Russia for tryouts on Soviet collectivist farms.

## CHICAGOANS WILL AID IN COTTON RESEARCH

## Leaders Of Finance, Industry Entertain Memphians

## LUNCHEON MEETING HELD

**Foundation Advisory Council  
Includes Four Prominent Men  
In Illinois Metropolis—New  
Orleans Visit Next**

Special to The Commercial Appeal  
CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—Leaders of Chicago finance and industry conferred with officials of the Cotton Research Foundation of Memphis today at a luncheon given in honor of the visitors by James R. Leavell, president of the Continental Illinois National Bank. The object of the visit was to report progress in research for new cotton uses and lay

plans for its extension

Mr. Leavell is a member of the Advisory Council of the Foundation as are Gen. R. E. Wood, president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., Sidney McAlister, president of International Harvester Co., and Kenneth Thompson, president of the Chicago Merchants' Exchange.

## Other Chicagoans Join

These Chicagoans were joined by James E. Bennett, head of the Bennett Board of Trade brokerage firm; L. A. Dowd, president of the Illinois Central; A. J. Burt, vice president of Sears, Roebuck and Co.; Bentley G. McLeod, vice president of the First National Bank of Chicago; Herman Waldeck, executive president of the Continental Bank, and Barnet Farroll, vice president of the Chicago Board of Trade, in welcoming the Memphians.

Members of the Foundation in the Memphis party included Oscar Johnston of Scott, Miss., Vance Alexander of the Union & Planters National Bank, Everett R. Cook, W. H. Jasspon, president of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, and Rhea Blake of the Delta Chamber of Commerce of Greenville, Miss.

## To Visit New Orleans

While research work initiated by the Foundation to date has not reached the stage of patent applications, results outlined at the meeting are rich with practical promise. The Foundation has contracted with the Mellon Institute of Pittsburgh to carry on research to promote new and more efficient uses of cotton in industry. The fellowship established at Pittsburgh will be followed by other fellowships of research in engineering and agricultural colleges as soon as the primary work at the Mellon Institute requires supplementary effort.

At the meeting today the co-operation and financial aid of Chicago business were pledged to the Memphians, who expect in about two weeks to meet with business leaders of New Orleans.

### Editorial of the Day

## TOMORROW ON THE FARM

(From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.)

The voice of science is speaking to the farmer, partly in terms of prophecy, but also in the accents of accomplished facts.

Plastics from cotton and the soybean have already supplanted hard rubber or metal in automobile steering wheels, gear-shift levers, interior fittings. The "vegetable car," recently predicted by Henry Ford, is not here yet, but it will presently be rolling off the assembly lines.

Cellulose plastics, plus films and lacquers, used to produce 2,100,000 acres of cotton land in 1935. Rayon and cellophane accounted for more than 6,500,000 acres of cotton and 22,000 acres of timber. A du Pont executive, C. M. A. Stine, is authority for those figures.

Carl M. Eritsche, managing director of the Farm Chemical Council, estimated in 1936 that, within 10 years, 5,000,000 acres of new cultivation would be required to supply the demands of the plastic industry for farm products.

The paint and varnish industry has long been importing tung oil from the Orient. The tangyiu tree, native to China, is now being grown successfully in the United States. A million-acre plant is visualized as the basis for a business of \$100,000,000 a year.

Can newsprint be made from southern pine? The product has been unsatisfactory to newspaper

The product has been unsatisfactory to newspaper publishers on two counts—texture and color. Research is meeting these objections. Anyhow, the investment in pulp mills now totals \$137,000,000. Power alcohol is here. Mixed with gasoline, it makes a more effective motor fuel, it is claimed. A plant is now in operation in Atchison, Kan. The product is on sale in five midwestern states. Nebraska exempts alcohol in the mixture from the state gasoline tax. The probable area of cultivation is placed at 21,000,000 acres.

A further word about the soybean. Brought to this country more than a century ago, it was, for a long time, an exotic. It has been "naturalized." It is more than paying its way. Dr. W. L. Burlison, of the University of Illinois, says that within 20 years the soybean will equal the corn crop in value.

Tomorrow, it may well be, will spread a sumptuous table for the farmer in the dell.

## THE COTTON PICKER

John and Mack Rust, inventors of the mechanical cotton picker, now claim that they have a machine ready for commercial use in the cotton fields of the South.

"For the first time in 10 years," the brothers announced this week, "we are able to say without preface that we have a machine that is now ready for commercial production."

The machine is said to pick 100 pounds at a cost of 11 cents, which is about one-ninth what it costs to pick cotton by hand. Naturally there is much concern lest the

mechanical pick throw thousands of workers in the South's cotton fields out of employment, and thus aggravate an already serious situation.

Undoubtedly there will be many problems raised, and it is true that in some instances the cotton picker will displace hand labor. Nevertheless, The Advertiser believes that in the perfection of the Rust invention there is hope for the South. Cheaper cotton will mean that this country will be in a better position to compete with other cotton-producing countries, and at the same time the American consumer will be in a position to obtain cotton goods at a somewhat reduced price.

Furthermore, it does not seem as likely as some persons would lead us to believe that a serious unemployment problem will be presented. In the first place, the machine cannot be used except on the large cotton plantations—for the time being, at any rate. In the second place, the cotton-picking season never lasts longer than six weeks, and so even if large numbers of workers are thrown out of their jobs it will be only for a limited time.

This is not to underestimate the seriousness of the threatened unemployment problem in the rural sections of the South for the problem is serious. But as Tom Campbell, field agent of Tuskegee, has pointed out, the costly machines cannot be rapidly installed on all the farms of the South; whatever problems are presented can be solved over a period of time. And the fact that cotton will be more cheaply produced should tend to offset, within time, the technological questions raised.

## FATS, OILS CITED AS STATE RICHES

## South Pictured by Speaker as Chemical Frontier.

ATHENS, March 11.—(A)—The south is the chemical frontier of

the nation and will be for the Jones said Georgia not only next quarter-century, Ollie Effailed to develop export markets, Jones, vice-president of a Chi-but in 1936 her production of lard, cago packing firm, told the Uni-butter and margarine was "less versity of Georgia Science Club:han the consumption of these tonight products in the state."

The south's "chemical raw materials, especially the new ones such as cellulose, starch and vegetable oils, have hardly been touched," he said. "They are ready for the chemical concerns."

Georgia has the opportunity to become the greatest producer of fats and oils in the nation, he said.

"Georgians should supply more



## Our Great Need

Alabama's Donald Comer is one Southern industrialist who is not blind to the need of balancing agriculture and industry in the South to help raise the standards of living among farm and industrial workers in a section of the country that is still backward in too many things.

Mr. Comer in a recent address, declared that the South's first concern must be for agriculture and that Southerners should not overlook their major economic base in their efforts to encourage industry.

"Our great need today in this agricultural South," he said, "is for industry to make not only some things to ship outside of our section, but to make at home more of the things our own people need, and to furnish a nearby industrial wage to buy the things our farmers grow. . . . I have always said that industry must not come with the purpose of exploitation, that unless it comes prepared to take a constructive part in this program, it had better not come at all. Our section can better afford to remain agricultural than to undergo industrial exploitation with all its attendant evils."

"Farm incomes," Mr. Comer said, "must be our first concern."

Mr. Comer went on to say that industry, wisely led, can give the South a fair balance with agriculture.

There is, indeed, a place in the South for industries that can supply the needs of the agricultural South. Many of our present industries make things to sell in far-away markets. They are valuable industries, helpful to the communities where their pay rolls are spent, but there is room, much room, for plants and factories to turn out products that can be sold and consumed in the South.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Jefferson, Ga., Herald

March 31, 1938

## Dixie's Natural Advantages Cited By Magnate

Ways, Ga.—The South is destined to lead the way toward a greater nation, in the opinion of Henry Ford, noted motor magnate who is building a model community on his 75,000-acre plantation here.

"I think the salvation of the United States lies in the South and its people," Ford said in an exclusive interview with International News Service.

"The South is prepared," he added. "It has many natural advantages, and the Southerner is equipped with intelligence and a determined mind. The people of this section have a great heritage. Their ancestors were among the first settlers of this nation and were persons of a high type, including soldiers and farmers."

Speaking of the fertility of the Southern soil and the climatic conditions favorable to gardening, farm-

ing and timber growth, he exclaimed:

"Why, this soil will grow anything."

His own fields are planted to many different crops. Some of them are for human consumption while others are for commercial uses.

Scientific discoveries, some of them already in use, will open new outlets in industry for agricultural products and will play an important part in the South's future, Ford believes.

He referred to the work by Dr. Charles H. Herty, of Savannah, who is developing new uses for fast-growing Southern pine trees, and Dr. George Washington Carver, famed negro scientist of Tuskegee Institute, who has developed some 300 uses for peanuts, sweet potatoes and other Southern crops.

"I consider those scientists to be two of the outstanding men in the United States today," Ford said.

"Dr. Carver is developing products of the soil and Dr. Herty is developing timber. Both are pioneers in their respective fields. Both have unselfishly given their important discoveries to the world with no thought of personal gain."

On numerous occasions Ford has visited the laboratories of Dr. Herty in Savannah, and only recently he went to Tuskegee to examine personally the scores of products developed by Dr. Carver from the products of Southern soil.

But cotton, long the "king" of Southern crops, will play only a minor role in the South of the future, Ford believes. As the South's most important crop, it is "doomed," he predicted.

"Better cloth will be made chemically from other products than was ever manufactured from cotton," he explained.

"In these and other ways," he added, "Southerners will take the lead in building a greater country."

## SOUTH'S TUNG OIL OUTLOOK

From THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

America's tung tree belt, which is located in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Texas will produce a crop of 20 million pounds of nuts this year. C. C. Concannon, chief of the commerce department's chemical division, is authority for this information, which is of considerable interest to the United States, following his recent visit to the producing area. It is interesting for two reasons: First, it reveals progress in this new American industry, and offers additional supplies of tung oil that is produced on the soils of this country.

If this yield of nuts is attained, it will be equivalent to approximately four million pounds of oil, which Mr. Concannon points out is less than five per cent of the annual requirements of American manufacturers of paints, varnishes, linoleums, oilcloths, printing inks, and numerous other products in which this essential raw material is found to be practically indispensable.

Earlier in the season fear was felt for the current crop due to premature blooming and the consequent danger of frost blight. The danger period has passed, however, and except for a few groves, notably one of 1000 acres which suffered a 90 per cent loss, fruit clusters are set, and barring the unusual, a good crop is assured, Mr. Concannon states.

In making known the results of his survey, the commerce department official gives the South the benefit of valuable observations concerning the tung oil industry. He feels that the South has completed the ground work for another great American agricultural industry, but that there are still many difficult problems to face. First and foremost is the weather hazard, as the tung blossom is particularly sensitive to frost. In 1935 the entire crop was lost due to early blooming followed by unseasonable weather. In 1936 ten million pounds of nuts were harvested but again in 1937 widespread frost damage resulted in few nuts being produced. He advises that other problems are the proper selection of soil, air and water drainage, and the elimination of ill-advised speculative movements.

Mr. Concannon states that much money has been squandered throughout the tung belt in ill-starred ventures and urges that orchardists and prospective investors inform themselves thoroughly concerning the prospects for profits before investing time and money in tung groves. Acreage continues to be planted in places not suitable for the tung tree, according to present accepted ideas, and all too frequently groves which might otherwise thrive fail from lack of care, he admonishes. He further states that the fundamental requirements of climate and soil are now generally known and that increasing attention is being given to the problem with the view in safeguarding future developments.

This information, coming from a recognized authority on the subject, should serve as a valuable chart of the course to be pursued in developing the tung industry. If his advice is heeded it should be the means of avoiding the mistakes of the past which are indicated in what he saw on his latest inspection tour. On the tour he found that considerable new acreage has been set to tung trees during the past year, particularly in Mississippi and Louisiana. Although accurate records do not exist, he estimates that upwards of 150,000 acres are now planted, though he feels

that due to neglect and other unfavorable factors, probably not more than half of this acreage will prove to be successful.

Mr. Concannon points out that while the tung tree is not new to the South—a few experimental trees 30 years of age are still bearing in certain regions—there are few groves of any consequence more than eight or nine years of age, and the large majority of the groves now properly planted and receiving adequate care are not yet of bearing age.

Opportunities awaiting development of the industry are indicated in the fact that the United States consumption of tung oil practically all of which up to this time has come from China, has been increasing steadily in recent years. Last year when the record amount of close to 150,000,000 pounds were consumed, American importers paid China \$20,000,000 for this country's requirements.



Agriculture - 1938  
Improvement of.

General

## Quest For New Cotton Uses Enlists Help Of MidSouth Commercial Appeal

Research Foundation Of Memphis Seeks \$60,000 For Year's  
Work and Reports Fine Early Response—95

Communities Organized To Aid

By ROBERT TALLEY

The Cotton Research Foundation of Memphis yesterday called upon the cotton-growing states of the South to contribute a sum equal to only a tiny fraction of one per cent of the total value of the crop in normal years to finance another year's scientific quest for new uses and new markets.

Announcement that a campaign for \$60,000 to continue the work at the Mellon Institute is under way and has already met with gratifying initial success was made by Everett Cook, president of the Cotton Research Foundation and past president and more are to be organized. A part of the Memphis Cotton Exchange district meeting has already been held. The \$60,000 represents the first step in the foundation's second year in the foundation's program for the benefit of the cotton-growing states of the South. The \$60,000 represents the first step in the foundation's program for the benefit of the cotton-growing states of the South. The \$60,000 represents the first step in the foundation's program for the benefit of the cotton-growing states of the South.

John W. Dickens, president of the Greenville Cotton Exchange, wired to only six-thousandths of one per cent of the total value of the crop in normal years to finance another year's scientific quest for new uses and new markets.

"The response thus far has been most gratifying, many communities have already contributed their quotas and some having actually exceeded them," Mr. Cook said. "We have tried to distribute the various towns to contribute in proportion to their production."

In the widespread setup for the campaign, practically all Memphis cotton and banking interests are co-operating. The Memphis Cotton Exchange has written letters to all cotton exchanges throughout this area, the Memphis Clearing House Association has written to banks throughout the MidSouth and the local compresses and big cotton buying firms have enlisted the aid of their field forces. The latter include the Federal Compress & Warehouse Co., the Union Compress & Warehouse Co., the Memphis Compress & Storage Co., various independent compress companies, and the firms of Anderson Clayton & Co., George H. McFadden & Bro., Weil Brothers, M. H. Hensberg & Co. and C. C. Partee. In addition the MidSouth Cotton Growers Association of Memphis and the Staple Cotton Growers Co-operative Association of Greenwood, Miss., are aiding, the latter already having contributed \$1000 through its secretary, W. M. Gar-

Money Is Coming In  
B. G. West of the High Cotton Co. at Blytheville, local chairman, reported that Blytheville probably would double its quota, while W. D. McCuan of the Federal Compress Co. at Dyersburg declared he was confident Dyersburg's allotment would be exceeded. The promise of quota attainment was made by E. L. Anderson of Clarksdale, local chairman and one of the state's leading planters. Already the money is beginning to come in. A check for a substantial sum was received yesterday from James Crain of the R. E. Lee Wilson plantation at Wilson, Ark., and the mails brought another remittance from W. B. Swain of Hollyknowe, Miss. These were in addition to the \$1000 check received from the Staple Cotton Growers Co-operative Association at Greenwood.

95 Local Committees  
Thus far committees have been set up in 95 MidSouth communities

tion to the \$1000 check received from the Staple Cotton Growers Co-operative Association at Greenwood.

Five thousand dollars was raised and the promise of another \$5000 obtained by representatives of the Cotton Research Foundation on a recent trip to Chicago. The International Harvester Co. contributed \$2000, Swift & Co. gave \$1000, Armour & Co. gave \$1000, the Continental-Illinois Trust Co. \$500 and the First National Bank \$500. Mail order houses, the Chicago Board of Trade and other farm implement manufacturers promised the additional \$5000.

### Implement Firm Contributes

Indicative was this letter that the Chicago headquarters of the International Harvester Co. sent to its dealers in announcing its contribution:

"Cotton is one of the principal money crops of the South, and anything that can be done to increase the use of cotton fabric and cotton byproducts merits the support of every man and woman interested in the advancement of Southern agriculture. The Cotton Research Foundation of Memphis is undertaking a comprehensive campaign of research calculated to persuade the American people to use more cotton in all its forms. An allied activity of the Foundation is to discover and invent new uses for cotton and products of the cotton plant. Both these undertakings are fundamentally sound and, if supported by every citizen, the results will be far reaching and profitable to all."

The recent visit of a Cotton Research Foundation Committee to New Orleans produced a \$1000 contribution from the Southern Cotton Oil Co. and the promise of additional contributions from New Orleans' banks as soon as the matter could be submitted to their clearing house association.

"Every penny of the \$60,000 will be used for scientific research to promote the uses of cotton," Mr. Cook said. "All the officials of this organization are giving their services gratis and paying their own expenses."

### Four-Year Program

This year's \$60,000 is part of a program to spend \$225,000 on cotton research during the next four years, Mr. Cook explained, as expenses naturally will increase as the research work broadens. Therefore, any money oversubscribed this year can be carried over to apply on next year's needs.

The story of the first year's research by the Mellon Institute, published in last Sunday's issue of The

Commercial Appeal, has quickened the interest in this work throughout the MidSouth, Mr. Cook said. The Mellon Institute's scientists, in their first year, developed a number of potential new cotton products ranging from wall board from stalks to a synthetic art gum that approximates rubber. These discoveries are still in the laboratory stage, but are believed to offer strong commercial possibilities.

The Cotton Research Foundation is an organization of cotton men, agriculturists, business leaders and bankers.

### Officers Are Listed

Mr. Cook, a Front Street cotton dealer, is president, and other officers are: W. H. Jasspon, president of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, vice president; R. E. Barton of the National Bank of Commerce, treasurer; Vance J. Alexander, of the Union Planters National Bank, chairman of the Finance Committee, and Oscar Johnston, prominent Mississippi planter, chairman of the Advisory Committee.

The Foundation was organized in the Fall of 1936, based largely upon an idea advanced by David Cohn, well-known Greenville, Miss., author, who came to Mr. Cook with a plan for a scientific research program to extend the uses of cotton. The latter was so impressed that he called a meeting of the Memphis Cotton Exchange to consider it. Later a mass meeting of Memphis cotton men was held and \$15,000 subscribed.

Mr. Cook and Mr. Jasspon then began to investigate the facilities for such scientific research, and finally decided that the best agency was the world-famed Mellon Institute for Industrial Research at Pittsburgh, as it was already equipped. Accordingly, the contract was awarded to the Mellon Institute last Summer, and the work began.



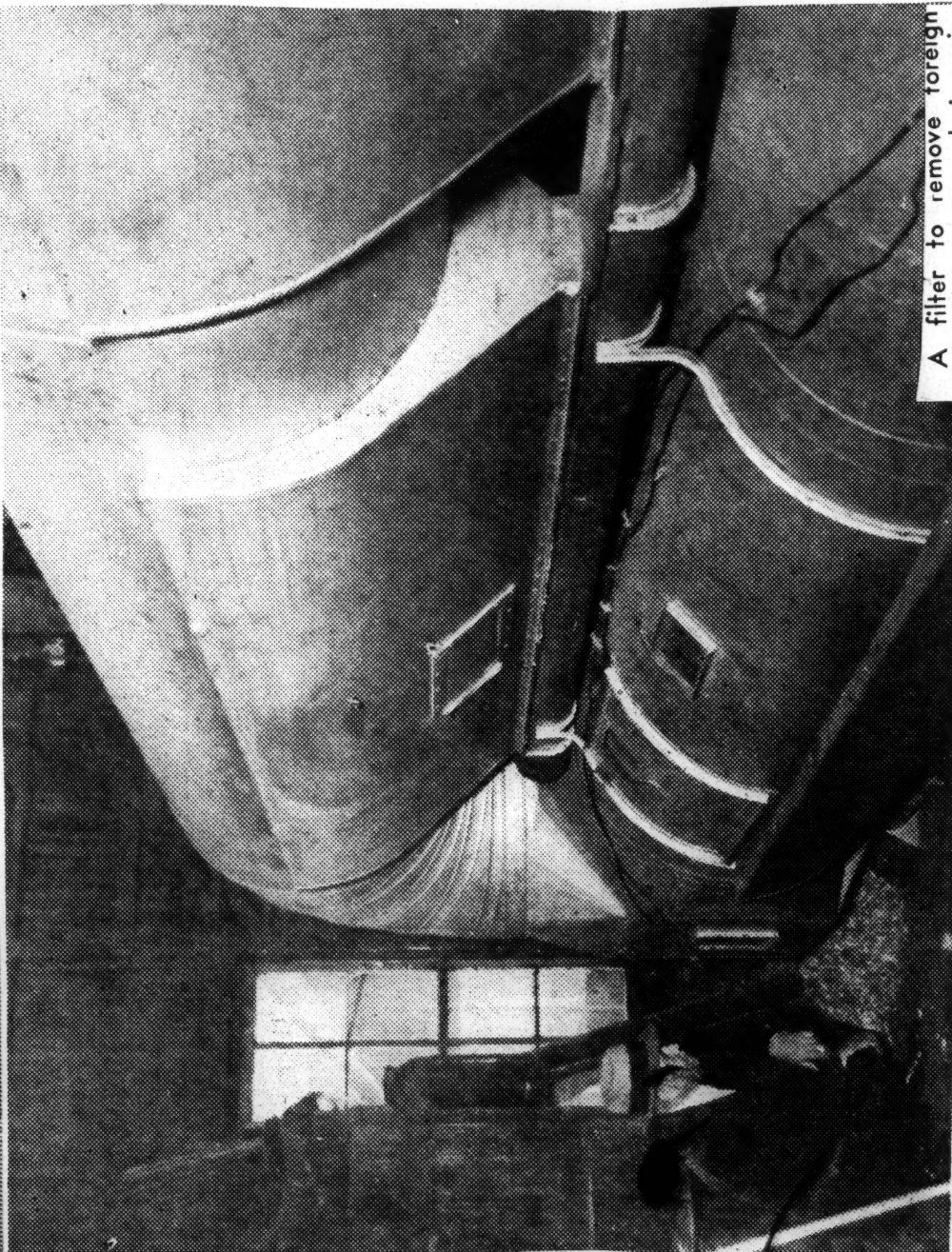




Agriculture - 1938  
Improvement of.

General.

# Invention Holds Interest In Cotton Circles



A filter to remove foreign matter from cotton during ginning has been invented by Frank Graham (left in top photo) of West Memphis, Ark., who shows Saul Putzel, cotton buyer, some of the trash and dirt removed from the lint. Finis E. Wilson (lower photo) is shown beside the new device, which its sponsors claim will greatly improve the quality of cotton ginned.

## New Cotton Filter Heralded As Efficient Trash Remover

Invention of a filter that removes much foreign matter from cotton during the ginning process was announced yesterday at West Memphis, Ark., by Finis E. Wilson and M. L. Thompson, Crittenden County planters.

The inventor is Frank Graham of West Memphis, who has been a gin operator for 14 years and has worked 10 years on the new device.

Use of the filter will eliminate much of what is known to the cotton trade as "gray cotton" and will improve the quality of all lint ginned by a machine equipped with one of the filters, its sponsors say.

"The lint flue is eliminated from lint, and this matter is carried off the gin when the new filter is by a four-inch spiral conveyor."

used," Mr. Graham explained. "Formerly the cotton went from the filter when it leaves the stand."

At the Thompson gin at West Memphis, the filter is attached to a three-stand gin. When the cotton enters the metal filter, it is completely "broken down."

"The air pressure comes in and whips the cotton with synchronized force, which causes the dirt, trash and other foreign matter to be pushed through the perforated metal bottom into dead-air chambers under the filter," Mr. Graham explained. "The dead-air chambers prevent foreign matter from returning to the filter which contains the

From the filter the cotton is taken to the baler, Mr. Graham said. Its sponsors claim that this is the first method devised to clean cotton after it leaves the stand and before it reaches the baler.

Joe Peltz, West Memphis cotton buyer, says that a quantity of cotton ginned last Fall with the use of one of the filters was 138 points, or the equivalent to \$6.90 per bale, higher than the same grade cotton which was put through a gin not equipped with one of the filters.

Mr. Wilson, a large plantation owner in Eastern Arkansas, was formerly Federal Court clerk in Memphis.



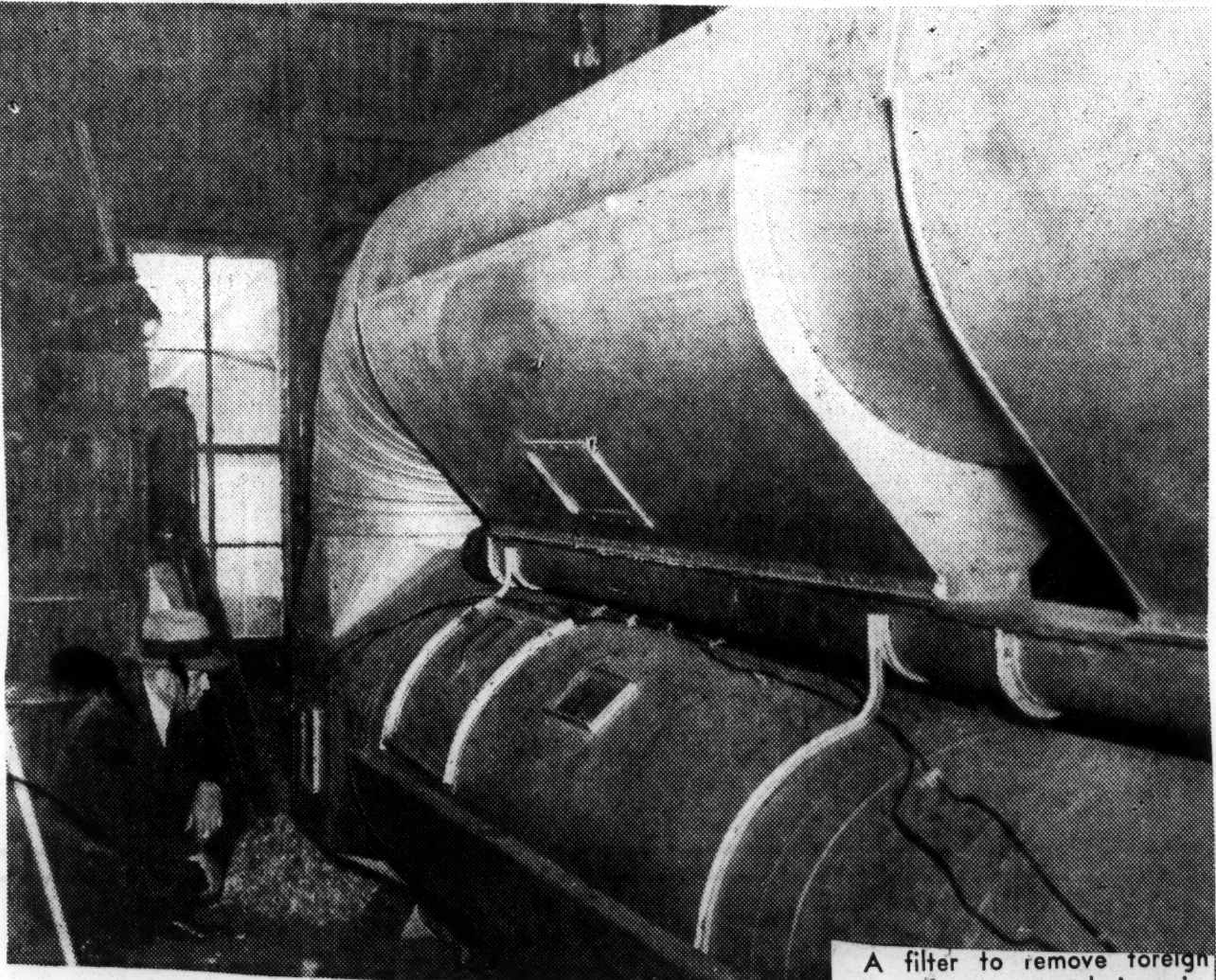
## Invention Holds Interest In Cotton Circles

### New Cotton Filter Heralded

#### As Efficient Trash Remover

Invention of a filter that removes improve the quality of lint as "gray cotton," and will the filter when it leaves the stand "first method devised to clean cotton before it reaches the baler." Joe Peltz, West Memphis cotton buyer, says that a quantity of cotton ginned last Fall with the use of one of the filters was 138 points, or the equivalent to \$6.90 per bale, which was put through a gin not equipped with one of the filters.

Mr. Wilson, a large plantation owner in Eastern Arkansas, was worked 10 years on the new device, quires no additional power. Plans to manufacture the prevent foreign matter from returning to the filter which contains the much of what is known to the cotton filters in Memphis.



A filter to remove foreign matter from cotton during ginning has been invented by Frank Graham (left in top photo) of West Memphis, Ark., who shows Saul Putzel, cotton buyer, some of the trash and dirt removed from the lint. Finis E. Wilson (lower photo) is shown beside the new device, which its sponsors claim will greatly improve the quality of cotton ginned.

"The lint flue is eliminated from lint, and this matter is carried off the gin when the new filter is by a four-inch spiral conveyor." used," Mr. Graham explained. "For- From the filter the cotton is taken merely the cotton went from then to the baler, Mr. Graham said. stand to the condenser. Now it hits the stand when it leaves the stand. At the Thompson gin at West Memphis, the filter is attached to before it reaches the baler.

At the Thompson gin at West Memphis, the filter is attached to before it reaches the baler. When the cotton enters the metal filter, it is completely "broken down." "Th air pressure comes in and of one of the filters was 138 points, or the equivalent to \$6.90 per bale, which was put through a gin not equipped with one of the filters.

The filter may be used on ether and other foreign matter to be which was put through a gin not equipped with one of the filters. The dead-air chambers formerly in Eastern Arkansas, was prevented foreign matter from returning to the filter which contains the much of what is known to the cotton filters in Memphis.



# Cotton Goes Into Cochran Short Route

price.

The experiment on the Cochran Short Route, right here at our doors, will naturally be watched with the keenest interest.



**BIG ROLLS OF COTTON FABRIC** went down on about 1.3 miles of the Cochran short route paving project yesterday afternoon. State highway engineers will use the fabric in a three-mile experimental stretch between Smithsonia and the county line. The fabric, in three weights, was being placed when this picture was snapped yesterday afternoon. The fabric is used on top of the primer coat, which has been laid on a limerock base. If the experiment is successful, a new market for the Dixie staple will be opened. Clausen and Laurens of Augusta are contractors on the job. (Staff photo by Coke).

## Cotton Fabric on Highways

Motorists and cotton growers alike will watch with interest the final result of this experiment on the Cochran short route using cotton fabric in highway construction. A beginning was made Thursday when contractors laid down 1.3 miles as part of a three-mile experimental stretch between Smithsonia and the Bibb county line.

The fabric being used is in three different weights and is placed on top of the primer coat which has been laid on a limerock base. The use of cotton fabric in highway construction is not new, of course. Many years ago an experiment was made in Alabama and more recently in South Carolina. In protecting the base from moisture it has served a good purpose and its use under such conditions as have been tried has seemed highly satisfactory.

There is no reason to doubt that the use of the fabric will have a real economic value in road construction and in that event it should contribute materially to the demand for cotton

at a time when the farmers of the South are gradually losing their markets.

It is no longer necessary to argue that there is no over-production of anything required to meet the necessities of life. The whole story lies in under-consumption. Industrial chemists are constantly finding new uses for practically everything that grows on the farm. If foreign competition and the low purchasing power of the people have impaired the demand for cotton as made up into the things usually sold, then we must find new uses for it and if it serves a good purpose in the building of our highways it should create a demand of many additional thousand bales of cotton each year.

We have been building highways with federal aid since shortly after the Bankhead act was passed in 1926, but we have hardly made a beginning. The roads that have been paved do not constitute a tenth of the highways that must be improved for travel and traffic. If cotton fabric were used on all the mileage which remains to be paved it would have a perceptible effect on the demand and on the



## AGRICULTURE - 1938 IMPROVEMENT OF

GENERAL

### THE SOUTH'S WEALTH IN PINES

When Editor W. T. Anderson told the Junior Chamber of Commerce convention at Macon about the two hundred million acres of pine lands in the South where the paper mills are springing up thick and fast, he showed from current figures that a half billion dollars a year can be saved through fire prevention alone, and then he explained why the pines had been sold at such small cost, while the paper mills had expected to pay considerably more. He said they hadn't paid it because the owners of the timber had such small appreciation of the value, and the paper mill operators didn't want to hurt their feelings by making them take more than was asked. The Southerners had been accustomed to burning their pines for charcoal and for fun, and had been cutting them for cordwood, and therefore, were unable to think of them as having much value. The speaker sought to impress his audience with the importance of teaching landowners that the Southern country has billions of potential wealth in its forests, and especially in its pine forests.

After the speech the delegation of Jaycees from Fort Valley went into a huddle in the lobby and said in common agreement that no more important question of a commercial nature has ever confronted the Southern people, and the club had never before realized it.

### FARM LOANS INCREASE AMONG NEGROES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—(AP)—Negro application for tenant purchase loans, loans made to tenants, sharecroppers or farm laborers to enable them to start on the road to ownership, have increased 12.5 percent this year over those for 1937. As of Sept. 27, applications were received for 1938-39 loans from 64,267 white and 24,544 Negro tenant farmers in 14 southern states. Negro applicants represented 37.7 of the total number as against last year's figure, 5,089, or 25 percent of the total.



Agriculture - 1938

Improvement of

## Tenant Farmer in Wilkes County To Get U. S. Aid, Buy Land Today

WASHINGTON, Ga., March 25

(AP)—Tenant Farmer Jim Webb Fanning tomorrow will be promoted to farm owner, the climax of a three-year climb up the ladder of agricultural success.

From a net value of \$225 made by the Farm Security Administration three years ago, he has increased his worth to a total of \$620 as measured by the same agency.

Tomorrow he will be presented with a government check for \$2,500 and will spend immediately \$1,500 to buy a 148-acre farm from J. Guy Norman. The remaining \$1,000 will be put into circulation as Fanning makes improvements on the farm property.

Fanning is the first of 175 Georgia farmers who will receive loans to purchase farms in 35 Georgia counties. He is 37 years old, married, the father of five children. Already operating the farm he will buy, he expects a cash income of \$700 this season.

Senator Richard B. Russell Jr., will be principal speaker at the ceremony marking the transfer of farm ownership. The program will start at 11 o'clock, eastern standard time.

A Wilkes county delegation will escort Senator Russell into the city for the ceremony. Others on the program will be M. Pembroke Pope, of Washington; Walter S. Brown, director of the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service; R. W. Hudgens, of Montgomery, Ala., regional director of the Farm Security Administration; W. A. Slaton, of Washington; R. L. Vansant, state director of the FSA, and others.

Waycross Ga., Journal-Herald

June 7, 1938

## CANNING WORK BEING STARTED

### Negro Vocational Department Will Preserve Food.

The vocational agricultural division is now ready to do canning both in Waycross, Ware and adjoining counties. Persons locally desiring to have vegetables, fruits and meats canned and preserved are asked to get in touch immediately with Prof. L. L. Ison or T. P. McLean, teacher of vocational agriculture, it is announced by these Negro leaders today.

Each family having canning done will prepare, wash and grade it ready to be sealed. The processing will be done by the teacher.

It is urged that only good young and tender and uniform size, shape and color be canned. The food should not be gathered more than a few hours before being canned. Food that is gathered one day and canned the next day does not make a good product and is not easily kept. No faulty or undesirable food will be canned. Each family will furnish cans or jars for their canning.

Approximately 1400 quarts of surplus fruits and vegetables were put up last year. All canning will be free of charge. Postal cards may be sent to the above persons.

Georgia

## Jim W. Fanning, Ex-Sharecropper, Made Independent by Tenant Loan

About Five Months Ago He Was Presented With \$2,500;  
This Fall His Harvest Will Meet Payments and Leave  
Him Profit and Encouragement.

By CARL HANCOCK,  
Georgia Extension Service.  
WASHINGTON, Ga., Aug. 23.—  
Georgia's first tenant purchase loan is bearing fruit.

About five months ago, during ceremonies in the public square here, Jim Webb Fanning, 37-year-old Wilkes county sharecropper, became the first farmer in this state to receive a loan for the purchase of a farm under provisions of the Bankhead-Jones farm tenant act.

At that time, he was presented with a Farm Security Administration check for \$2,500 by Senator Richard B. Russell Jr. With this loan, repayable over a 40-year period at 3 per cent interest, he was to buy a farm and make the necessary repairs and improvements.

That same day he bought a farm, paying Guy T. Norman, another Wilkes county farmer, \$1,500 for a 150-acre tract 12 miles west of Washington.

Today, Jim Webb Fanning is justifying that confidence which the federal government placed in him. In his first year as a landowner, he is making good in a big way.

### 10 Acres of Cotton.

He has 10 acres of cotton this year, and prospects were fine until wet weather and the boll weevil hit the crop. In spite of this, he expects to make five bales which, at present prices, will return him more than \$200. While the sale of lint is his main source of income, Fanning will realize about \$50 from his cottonseed and \$56 from his government parity payment.

Of the 75 cultivable acres in his farm, he is working only 50 this year. The remaining 25 acres are rented out for one bale of cotton, in this agreement having been made by the previous owner. Next year, however, he will operate the entire 75 acres.

Other sources of cash income include velvet beans, peas, syrup, year, but this amount was advanced in the rehabilitation loan, says his eight acres of velvet and beans should return about \$25, and he already has sold more than \$20 worth of chickens and eggs. This is only the beginning.

From two acres of cane, he will have about 200 gallons of syrup. He expects to sell at least 50 gallons of this for \$25, and will save the rest for use at home.

### They Live at Home.

That is the situation from the financial side of the picture. But what is more important is that the Fannings fully realize the value of a "live-at-home" program.

For instance, a one-acre garden this spring and summer has furnished adequate vegetables for this family of seven, and another acre of sweet potatoes will provide food on into the winter.

Mrs. Fanning already has canned 176 quarts of fruits and vegetables, and plans to can about 50 quarts of beans later. She also has 20 pounds of dried apples and five pounds of dried peaches to use during the winter months.

In addition to her canned goods, another of her prized possessions is a fine flock of white leghorns. She has some 30 hens, and 75 other chickens of varying size. So fried chicken is a regular dish on the Fanning dinner table.

Two mules, a cow, a heifer calf, and a brood sow comprise the other livestock on this farm. Plenty of feed for the stock is being provided, too, with 23 acres in corn and six acres in peas and cane for hay. Four acres of oats, harvested this spring, also will be used as hay.

This fall Jim Webb Fanning will owe the Farm Security Administration \$325, including repayment of his rehabilitation loan and the annual payment on his farm. But his cash incomes will be about \$450, despite the boll weevil attack. This is a clear profit of \$125 in any language, which comes in addition to a good living throughout the year.

### Elated Over Progress.

It is true the Fannings spent \$36 for staple groceries for the year, but this amount was advanced in the rehabilitation loan, and will be included in that amount to be repaid this fall.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Fanning are elated over the progress they are making this year. They figure if they can do that well while paying for a farm, then this business

of farming is not so bad after all. This same happiness and satisfaction are reflected in the five children, ranging in age from 14 years down to the two-year-old baby girl. It is a laughing group of light-hearted youngsters, who, for the first time, are getting an idea of what life really is supposed to be.

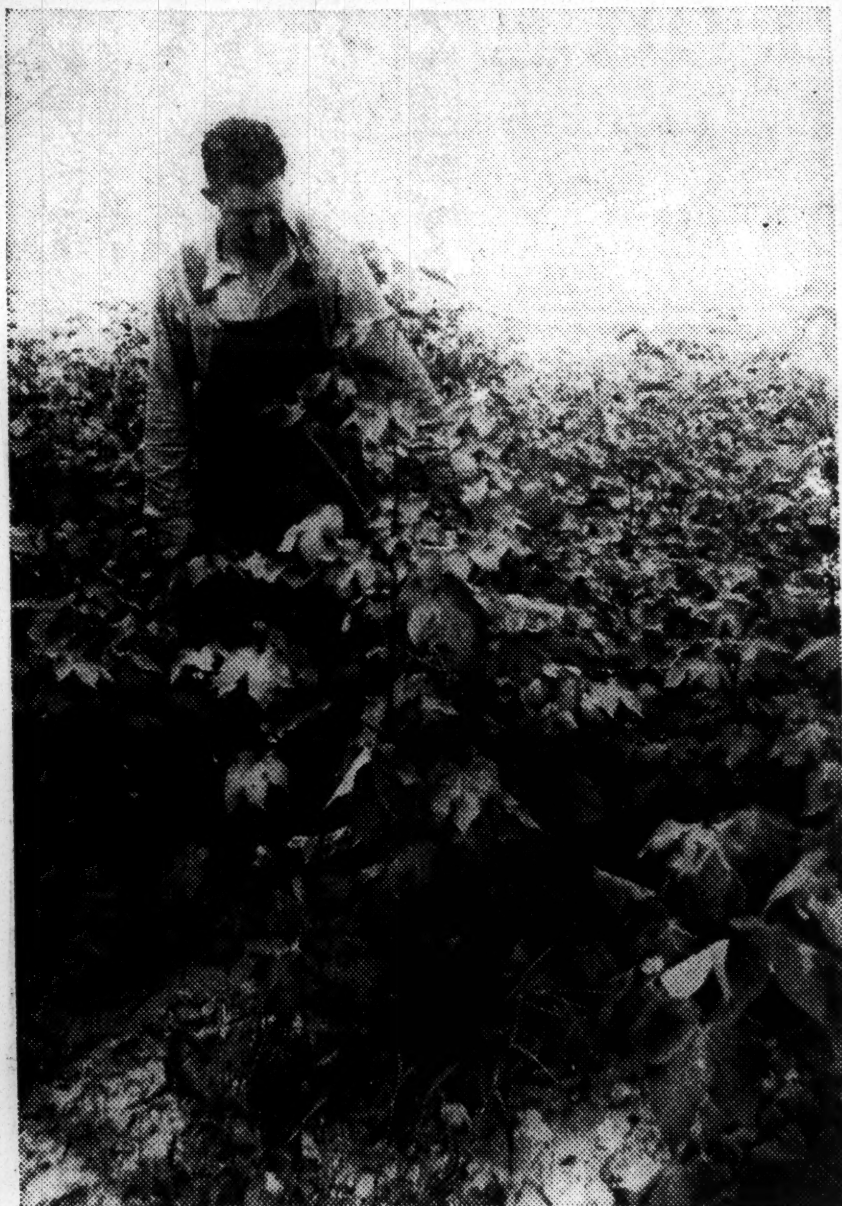
And that is the story of Jim Webb Fanning. Born the son of a sharecropper, that is the life he always knew until "hard times" placed him and his family on the Wilkes county relief rolls.

There the Farm Security Administration found him in the early part of 1935. And after a three-year, up-hill struggle, he is now a satisfied farm owner—working from morning until night, but finding time to enjoy life with his family.

Jim Webb Fanning is a symbol of the progress that is being made. He is one of 186 tenant farmers loaned money to purchase a farm last year. During the current fiscal year, 450 similar loans will be made in Georgia, alone, through the Tenant Purchase Division of the FSA.



# Ex-Sharecropper and His Wife Show the World They Can Make Good



Jim Webb Fanning, of Wilkes county, first farmer in Georgia to receive a tenant purchase loan, is shown above as he inspects his cotton. Despite a heavy boll weevil infestation and other damage from wet weather, he expects to make about five bales of cotton on 10 acres.



Mrs. Fanning (right) does her part toward making a living for the family. The picture above shows the results of her canning endeavors. She expects to put almost this much more before the season ends. She is shown here with the Wilkes county home supervisor, Miss Thelma Jones.

## Georgia's First Bale

INTO our sorely depressed fabric, in all its ermine glory the first bale of cotton has come to Georgia. With the usual ceremony this bale has been christened and sold and its proceeds possibly applied to the running expenses of the farm upon which it was produced. In spite of our distressed times, the cut of cotton acreage and general hard times, there is always a spirit of intense and genuine thanksgiving and the arrival of the "first bale."

We can recall here in Georgia when the first bale honor was a petting, Home Owning, Soil Conservation, House Screening, Civilizer one of much envy. The first bale contestants always had a petting, Home Owning, Soil Conservation, House Screening, Civilizer patch where they could grow their own cotton. For many and feed conservation, and so on. Canning, preserving, curing meats and other necessary products in farm life are to be given consideration. The movement is an effort to stop the criticism about carelessness farm life. The share-cropping and tenant systems, together with the small wages paid for farm labor, are supposed to be responsible in large part for the South's unemployment problem, and this is an effort to teach the Negroes how to take pride in their home life on the farm.

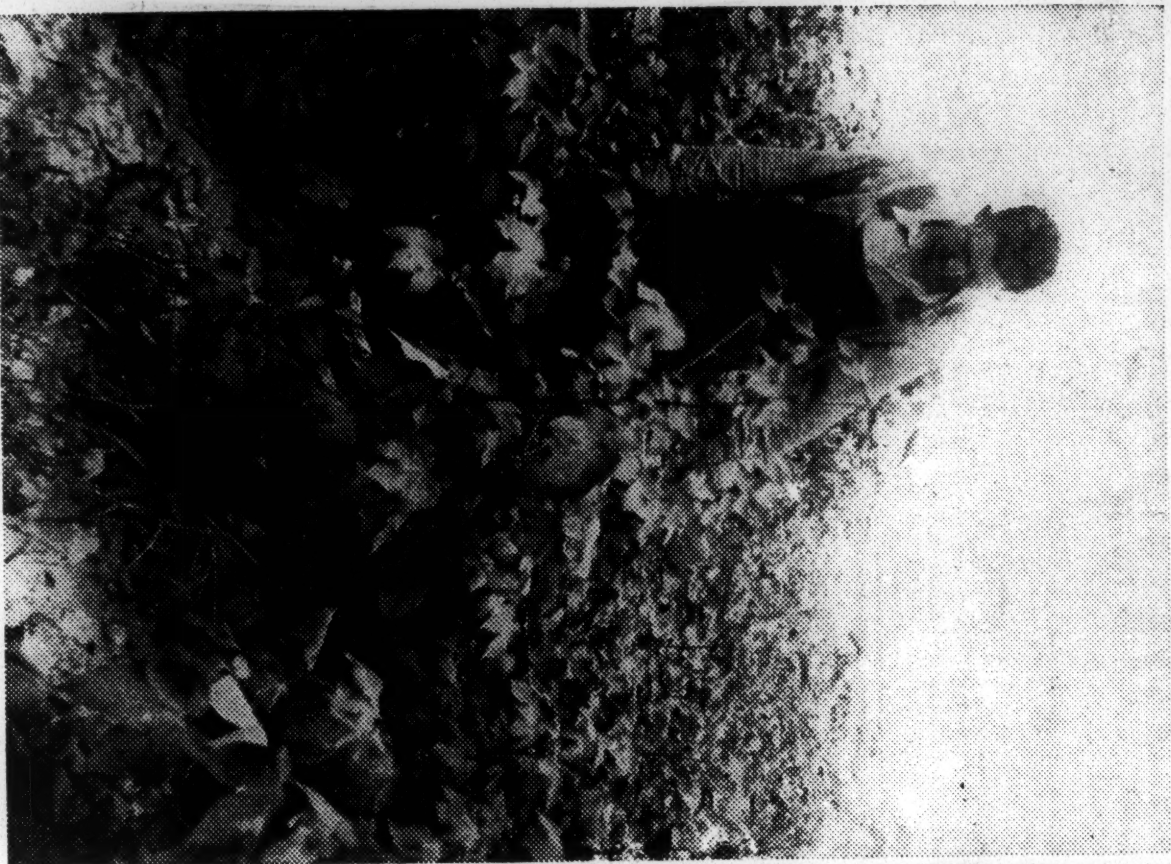
## LOOKING FOR FARM TENANCY DISGRACE

The Negro farmers in Laurens county held on September 2, what is said to be the first farmers' and farm women's commencement ever held in the United States, and certificates of merit, signed by Secretary Henry A. Wallace of the United States Department of Agriculture; Walter S. Brown, director of extension work; P. T. Stone, state agent for Negro work; Camilla Weems, state agent for Negro work, and county agents, will be awarded to each farmer or farm woman who has carried out the county program, including the Live at Home System, Health and Sanitation Regulations, Home Beautification, Record Keeping, Toilet System, Painting and whitewashing, glass windows, fruit and feed conservation, and so on. Canning, preserving, curing meats and other necessary products in farm life are to be given consideration.

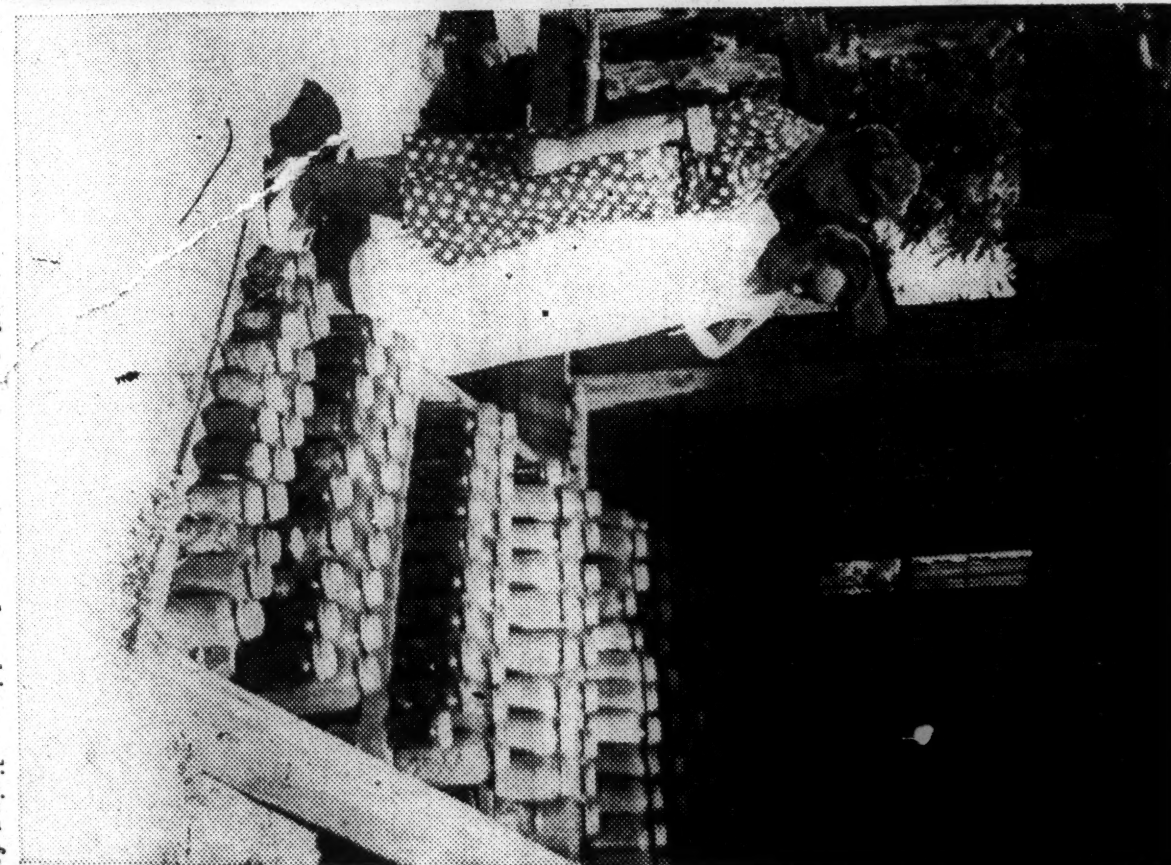
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# Ex-Sharecropper and His Wife Show the World They Can Make Good



Jim Webb Fanning, of Wilkes county, first farmer in Georgia to receive a tenancy purchase loan, is shown above as he inspects his cotton. ~~He~~ <sup>Despite</sup> heavy boll weevil infestation and other damage from wet weather, he expects to make about five bales of cotton on 10 acres.



Mrs. Fanning (right) does her part toward making a living for the family. ~~The picture above~~ <sup>She</sup> shows the results of her canning endeavor. ~~She~~ <sup>She</sup> expects to ~~make~~ <sup>make</sup> this much more before the season ends. She is shown here with the Wilkes county home supervisor, Miss Thelma Jones.

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We can recall here in Georgia when the first bale honor was one of much envy. The first bale contestants always had a pet patch where they could plant in March free of freezes. For many years Deal Jackson, wealthy colored farmer of Daugherty (Albany) county held this honor. Near Albany on the Dawson road, Jackson had a prosperous farm. He had over a score of tenants and his farm was one of the show places of southwest Georgia. Deal Jackson gathered unto his fathers and the place in other hands, there is no longer a contention for the first bale honor.

## CURING FARM TENANCY DISGRACE

The Negro farmers in Laurens county held on September 2, what is said to be the first farmers' and farm women's commencement ever held in the United States, and certificates of merit, signed by Secretary Henry A. Wallace of the United States Department of Agriculture; Walter S. Brown, director of extension work; P. T. Stone, state agent for Negro work; Camilla Weems state agent for Negro work, and county agents, will be awarded to each farmer or farm woman who has carried out the county program, including the Live at Home System, Health and Sanitation Regulations, Home Beautification, Record Keeping, Home Owning, Soil Conservation, House Screening, Civilized Toilet System, Painting and whitewashing, glass windows, fruit and feed conservation, and so on. Canning, preserving, curing meats and other necessary processes in farm life are to be given consideration. The movement is an effort to stop the criticism about careless farm life. The share-cropping and tenant systems, together with the small wages paid for farm labor, are supposed to be responsible in large part for the South's long rated by President Roosevelt as the nation's No. 1 problem, and this is an effort to teach the Negroes how to take pride in their home life on the farm.



Macon Ga. Telegraph  
March 6, 1938

## Figures in Fort Valley Show



SEVERAL LEADING figures in the ham and egg show at Fort Valley Normal and Industrial school Friday are shown in these pictures. Above, Publisher W. T. Anderson is shown with, reading from left to right, C. A. Ragins, Raymond Miller and O. S. O'Neal. Ragins sold his first prize ham to Mr. Anderson for \$15, and Miller sold his second prize entry to the publisher for \$10. O'Neal is the Negro county agent for Peach and director of the show, which is an annual event. Jones Purcell, Tifton, extension service swine specialist and judge of the hams, is shown looking at one of the fine joints. Below, Miss Thelma Wilson, English teacher at Fort Valley high school, who acted as one of the judges of cookery, and Margaret Toomer, Peach Negro home demonstration agent, are shown looking at some eggs. (Staff photos by Boone)



Macon Ga. Telegraph  
March 6, 1938

### Success of Ham-and-Egg Show

If Negro farmers throughout Georgia could catch the vision and purpose which, 20 years ago, inspired O. S. O'Neal, Negro farm demonstration agent of Peach county, and have been carried forward to a culmination such as the annual "ham-and-egg" show staged Friday at the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School, thousands would be lifted from poverty and dependence to thrift and prosperity, and even the white farmers of the state would find much to imitate.

When O'Neal put on his first ham-and-egg show, then as now, with the active co-operation of the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School, the outlook was not encouraging. It was an humble beginning, to put it mildly. A cheese-box, filled with dirty eggs, and chickens of various breeds, with frizzly Frieslands and "Dominikers" predominating, practically constituted the show.

But year after year, with patient zeal, he has carried on his work of training and educating Negro farmers in the best methods of raising and curing meat and in developing poultry, until Friday's show included exhibits from 300 4-H Negro farm boys and girls and men and women from all over Peach county, with interested visitors from adjoining counties. There were chickens and eggs to go with the ham, but perhaps it is not undivious to say that ham ruled the day. The 300 pieces of meat weighed more than 6 thousand pounds and there was much interest in

the awarding of prizes, made by Mr. Jones Purcell, swine specialist from Tifton.

The quality of this meat left nothing to be desired. It presented an attractive appearance as it lay spread on a table in front of the speaker's platform. But it had an even wider significance as indicating what the Negro farmers of Georgia can do under enlightened instruction and with a real desire to lift themselves by thrift and industry from the subsistence level to real prosperity.

Bishop W. A. Fountain of Atlanta, leader in the Negro Methodist Church, made a valuable contribution by urging the Negroes of Georgia to remain here in the state, where he found they are really happier than anywhere else with ample opportunity to get on in the world. It is not too much to say that William E. Brown, Negro janitor of The Telegraph and News, "stole the show" with his story of how he had started to raising hogs on a small scale and had now built up an extensive business.

One of his hams on exhibition, well cured and neatly packaged in Cellophane, was one of the most attractive on display, though not entered for a prize.

When presented to the audience by the editor of The Telegraph and News, Brown told his story and answered questions with ready facility born of an intimate knowledge gained by experience. He had applied the method previously outlined by the editor of The Telegraph and News along the line that a hog does not like filth any better than a cat or a dog and remains practically free from disease when



raised in sanitary surroundings. While the theory that "there is no such thing as cholera" among hogs may be controversial, there is abundant evidence that the animals, when raised in clean and wholesome surroundings, do not suffer from it.

Brown's experience in "share-cropping" a number of hogs each year was listened to with rapt attention. It is a commentary on the general honesty of human nature that with his system of placing two pigs with a farmer to be raised "on halves" he has never found, at the end of the season that "his hog" has died and the share-cropper's hog has survived. In short, he has found fairness and integrity at all times.

The occasion at Fort Valley on Friday has a larger significance because it fits in with the broad movement of the Banner Ham Association to build up the live-stock industry generally and particularly to establish at Cochran, as a nucleus, an abattoir, with the assistance of the Georgia Power Company, and begin the scientific curing, packaging and marketing of a standard quality of ham which will be recognized all over the country.

The ham-and egg show at Fort Valley is an economic landmark and Friday's exhibition carries it a step further toward enduring and far-reaching success.

Macon, Ga. Telegraph  
March 5, 1938

## HAM-EGG MEETING TERMED SUCCESS

Fort Valley Negro Farmers  
Praised by W. T. Anderson  
for Quality Exhibits

Negro farmer folk of Peach county exhibited their prize hams and their choicest eggs at the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial school yesterday.

From miles around came hard-working farmers and farm women, all eager to display the meat from their best shoats and the eggs from their best flocks.

They came too for words of advice on better farming—for new ideas on how to do old tasks better.

Words of advice flowed from the lips of a number of speakers, including Publisher W. T. Anderson of The Macon Telegraph and Evening News, Bishop W. A. Fountain, Atlanta, leader in the Negro Methodist church, and others.

### Prize Hams Bought

Their speeches followed purchase by Mr. Anderson of the first prize ham from C. H. Ragins for \$15 and of the second best ham in the show from Raymond Miller for \$10.

Six others received six-months sub-high school faculty was one of the ascriptions to The Telegraph as judges and announced winners.

One of the features of the program was an account by W. E. Jones Purcell, swine specialist from Brown, Negro janitor for The Telegraph, of his experiences as a hog raiser.

The two prize hams, selected by Tifton, were among more than 300 pieces of meat which together weighed approximately 6,000 pounds. O. S. O'Neal, Peach Negro farm agent who started the show 17 years ago and who has seen it grow from a small project to an event attracting attention from several adjoining counties, acted as master of ceremonies. He was assisted by S. H. Lee, Negro county agent with headquarters here, and Margaret Toomer, Negro home demonstration agent of Peach county.

### Improvement Seen

Mr. Anderson and Bishop Fountain were the principal speakers. Mr. Anderson complimented the Peach farmers on improvement in the shows, every one of which he has attended.

He spoke of the value of thrift and dependability, and envisioned a prosperous and happy life on the farm for those who work intelligently.

Glancing at the hundreds of pieces of cured meat spread out on the platform in front of the stage, Mr. Anderson stressed the possibilities of developing a major industry in production of Georgia hams.

### Banner Hams Group

But, he cautioned, the hams must come from healthy hogs which are raised apart from the stench and filth usually found around pig pens. And the hams must be cured uniformly, packed properly, and shipped under an attractive and exclusive label, he advised.

To attain that goal, the Georgia Banner Hams Association has been organized, the speaker explained, and the purpose is to provide a ready market for farm hams, which will be cured and packaged under expert supervision. Mr. Anderson is president of the association.

Mr. Anderson also spoke of the future possibilities in pines, saying that new uses for the tree fibers are being discovered by science regularly. Recently, he told the congregation of several hundred, a scientist told him that a method of manufacturing fine silk from pine fibers had been developed.

"Some day the time may come when we can just sit in the shade and go out and cut down a pine tree when we need money," he declared.

Bishop Fountain, whose stately figure has filled many a pulpit, urged the Negroes to remain on their farms and make a living there. He discouraged movement of Negroes to the North and said that he never had found people anywhere happier than they are in Georgia.

In addition to the speech-making, students at the school sang several spirituals.

Between the afternoon and morning sessions, barbecued pork, Brunswick stew and other dishes were served to about 300 4-H Negro farm boys and girls and to as many white and Negro guests of the school.

In addition to the eggs and meat, cakes also were on display. Miss Thelma Wilson of the Fort Valley

### In Business Two Years

Brown started two years ago with six pigs bought for a total of \$9. He has fed his hogs on bruised vegetables from Macon markets and on table scraps from Macon eating places.

Now he has a drove of swine, including one of his original pigs which is used as a boar.

Brown told of his methods of raising hogs, emphasizing the necessity of providing plenty of clean water and sanitary bedding, and those in the audience asked questions about his work in developing a thriving meat business from a small start. He has sold several hundred pounds.

The Negro said he kills his hogs at from 11 months to 12 months, and that he has a number "out on halves" with Negro farmers in the country around Macon.

Gastonia N C Gazette

March 11, 1938

## HAM AND EGGS

Some 20 years or more ago, a Negro county farm agent, O. S. O'Neal in Peach county, Georgia, started a movement to get the colored farmers of the county to raising more hogs and chickens. He kept at it through the years, with the aid and co-operation of the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School for Negroes. They developed the "ham and egg" show, which has been held every year for the past several years.

The editor of The Macon Telegraph was present at the 20th show held at Fort Valley last week. Negro farm boys and girls from many parts of Georgia were there and many of them entered hams and eggs in the contest.

Here are one or two extracts from a long editorial in the Macon paper which we are running in The Gazette in the hopes that some colored farmer of the county may gain a bit of inspiration from the story:

"When O'Neal put on his first ham-and-egg show, then as now, with the active co-operation of the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School, the outlook was not encouraging. It was an humble beginning, to put it mildly. A cheesebox filled with dirty eggs, and chickens of various breeds, with frizzly Frieslands and "Dominikers" predominating, practically constituted the show.

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ham, but perhaps it is not invidious to say that ham ruled the day. The 300 pieces of meat weighed more than six thousand pounds and there was much interest in the awarding of prizes, made by Mr. Jones Purcell, swine specialist from Tifton.

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desired. It presented an attractive appearance as it lay spread on a table in front of the speaker's platform. But it had an even wider significance as indicating what the Negro farmers of Georgia can do under enlightened instruction and with a real desire to lift themselves by thrift and industry from the subsistence level to real prosperity."

LEARNING ABOUT SHARECROPPERS

L. J. Cullen, who, as a member of the Pearson-Taft Company in Chicago, acquired possession of some Georgia farm lands, and one is known throughout the state as Horseshoe Bend in Wheeler county near Glenwood. It was once owned by Governor George M. Troup. Mr. Cullen had an idea he could so finance his tenant farmers they could make money and buy farms from him.

"I kept fretting and fussing because they didn't respond to my efforts," said Mr. Cullen. "They didn't seem to want to accumulate anything, and finally one day when I had them all together to enthruse them one of them said to me, 'Don't worry so much about us. We'll get along somehow.'

"I asked one of the merchants in Glenwood what my trouble was. He said probably I could get some better tenants. I made some changes, and am still doing my best to get them to make money and save it so they can buy property, but I've learned some things about the problem that I didn't know before I came down here."

Mr. Cullen has at Horseshoe Bend probably one of the best equipped farms in the South, his purpose being to grow the best of seeds and breeding stock for sale to farmers.



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The occasion at Fort Valley on Friday has a larger significance because it fits in with the broad movement of the Banner Ham Association to build up the live-stock industry generally and particularly to establish at Cochran, as a nucleus, an abattoir, with the assistance of the Georgia Power Company, and begin the scientific curing, packaging and marketing of a standard quality of ham which will be recognized all over the country.

The ham-and egg show at Fort Valley is an economic landmark and Friday's exhibition carries it a step further toward enduring and far-reaching success.

## HAM-EGG MEETING

### TERMED SUCCESS

Fort Valley Negro Farmers Praised by W. F. Anderson for Quality Exhibits

Negro farmer folk of Peach county exhibited their prize hams and their choicest eggs at the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial school yesterday.

From miles around came hard-working farmers and farm women, all eager to display the meat from their best shoats and the eggs from their best flocks.

They came too for words of advice on better farming—for new ideas on how to do old tasks better. Words of advice flowed from the lips of a number of speakers, including Publisher W. F. Anderson of The Macon Telegraph and Evening News, Bishop W. A. Fountain, Atlanta, leader in the Negro Methodist church, and others.

#### Prize Hams Bought

Their speeches followed purchase by Mr. Anderson of the first prize ham from C. H. Ragins for \$15 and of the second best ham in the show from Raymond Miller for \$10.

While the six others received six-months sub-high school faculty was one of the asludges and announced winners.

The two prize hams, selected bygram was an account by W. E. Jones Purcell, swine specialist from Brown, Negro janitor for The Telegraph, were among more than 300graph, of his experiences as a hog pieces of meat which together raised.

#### In Business Two Years

Brown started two years ago with a O. S. O'Neal, Peach Negro farm to agent who started the show 17 years ago and who has seen it grow from He has fed his hogs on bruised a small project to an event attract-vegetables from Macon markets and counties, acted as master of cere places.

He was assisted by S. H. Now he has a drove of swine, er, Negro home demonstration agent which is used as a boar.

Mr. Anderson and Bishop Fountain were the principal speakers, the audience asked questions about his work in developing a thriving meat business from a small start.

He spoke of the value of thrift and dependability, and envisioned a prosperous and happy life on the farm for those who work intelligently.

Glancing at the hundreds of pieces of cured meat spread out on the platform in front of the stage, Mr. Anderson stressed the possibilities of developing a major industry in production of Georgia hams.

March 11, 1938

#### HAM AND EGGS

Some 20 years or more ago, a Negro county farm agent, O. S. O'Neal in Peach county, Georgia, started a movement to get the colored farmers of the county to raising more hogs and chickens. He kept at it

But, he cautioned, the hams must through the years, with the aid and co-operation of come from healthy hogs which are raised apart from the stench and the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School for filth usually found around pig pens. Negroes. They developed the "ham and egg" show, and the hams must be cured uniformly, packed properly, and shipped under an attractive and exclusive label, he advised.

To attain that goal, the Georgia Banner Hams Association has been organized, the speaker explained. Negro farm boys and girls from many parts of and the purpose is to provide a Georgia where there and many of them entered ready market for farm hams, which will be cured and packaged under expert supervision. Mr. Anderson is president of the association.

Mr. Anderson also spoke of the future possibilities in pine, saying that new uses for the tree fibers county may gain a bit of inspiration from the story: are being discovered by science regularly. Recently, he told the congregation of several hundred, a then as now, with the active co-operation of the scientist told him that a method of Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School, the out-manufacturing fine silk from pine fibers had been developed.

"Some day the time may come when we can just sit in the shade and go out and cut down a pine tree when we need money," he declared. Bishop Fountain, whose stately figure has filled many a pulpit, urged the Negroes to remain on their farms and make a living there. He discouraged movement of Negroes to the North and said that he never had found people anywhere happier than they are in Georgia. In addition to the speech-making, students at the school sang several spirituals.

Between the afternoon and morning sessions, barbecued pork, Brunswick stew and other dishes were served to about 300 4-H Negro farm boys and girls and to as many white than six thousand pounds and there was much interest in the awarding of prizes, made by Mr. Jones Purcell, swine specialist from Tifton. The quality of this meat left nothing to be

#### LEARNING ABOUT SHARECROPPERS

L. J. Cullen, who, as a member of the Pearson-Taft Company in Chicago, acquired possession of some Georgia farm lands, and one is known throughout the state as Horseshoe Bend in Wheeler county near Glenwood. It was once owned by Governor George M. Troup. Mr. Cullen had an idea he could so finance his tenant farmers they could make money and buy farms from him.

"I kept fretting and fussing because they didn't respond to my efforts," said Mr. Cullen. "They didn't seem to want to accumulate anything, and finally one day when I had them all together to enthuse them one of them said to me, 'Don't worry so much about us. We'll get along somehow.'"

"I asked one of the merchants in Glenwood what my trouble was. He said probably I could get some better tenants. I made some changes, and am still doing my best to get them to make money and save it so they can buy property, but I've learned some things about the problem that I didn't know before I came down here."

Mr. Cullen has at Horseshoe Bend probably one of the best equipped farms in the South, his purpose being to grow the best of seeds and breeding stock for sale to farmers.

desired. It presented an attractive appearance as it lay spread on a table in front of the speaker's platform. But it had an even wider significance as indicating what the Negro farmers of Georgia can do under enlightened instruction and with a real desire to lift themselves by thrift and industry from the subsistence level to real prosperity."



AGRICULTURE- 1938  
IMPROVMENT OF

GEORGIA

Quitman, Ga., Free Press  
November 17, 1938

**Forestry Prize**

**Awarded Teacher**

T 24 C  
C. A. Whittle, director of education for the state forestry department; J. S. Cross, district forester; Alva Tabor, director of vocational training in negro schools, were here last Thursday for an interesting program when the second prize for the best forestry project in the state was presented to Benjamin Anderson, principal of the Brooks County Training School at Simmon Hill.

These leaders in educational work talked on the importance of forestry in any farm program and highly commended the good work being done at this and other schools in educating young farmers and adults in good forestry practice.

A display on the stage showed forestry work. The school project includes collecting pine seed, planting, making fire breaks, thinning woodlands and above all, fire prevention. It was stressed that pine seedlings take care of themselves in the woods if fire can be kept out. Forester Cross gave a demonstration to the boys and adults on best methods of planting.

Alva Tabor described the scope of the work in the statement that there are 102 departments of vocational agriculture in state colored schools with 3,000 boys and nearly 3,000 adult farmers, the latter in night classes. Josiah Phelps of the local school described the forestry work of the class.

Supt. R. H. Gill talked of the importance of keeping children in school, said the colored schools now do not have enough teachers but would have more next year based on attendance this year. He also made an appeal for the Red Cross Roll call of which he is county chairman.

A. T. Bell, chairman of school trustees, led in the opening invocation and was also presented for a short talk. A most enjoyable feature of the program was the varied musical selections by teachers and pupils. The domestic science class of which Clara Bacon is teacher, served a nice luncheon for the visitors before the program.



# Agriculture-1938 Improvement of

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution  
August 30, 1938

## Co-operative Marketing Held Key To the Prosperity of Rural Women

**Commissioner Columbus Roberts Praises Campaign Designed To Help Georgia Farm Group Sell Surplus Products to Urban Neighbors.**

More than 50 rural and urban women of Georgia, meeting yesterday at the Henry Grady hotel, heard reports on the progress of their campaign to find a money market at home for surplus farm products, and planned further extension of their work through the women's division of the State Department of Agriculture.

They were members of the state committee of rural-urban co-operation of the State Department of Agriculture, and when they had finished the business at hand they accepted the personal invitation of Georgia's first lady, Mrs. E. D. Rivers, to attend open house at the Governor's mansion.

Columbus Roberts, commissioner of agriculture, praised their co-operative efforts which, he said, are resulting in the rural woman's opportunity to dispose of surplus products to her urban neighbor.

### Stresses Marketing.

Citing figures to the effect that the average Georgia farmer's income is \$143 per year, Mr. Roberts stressed the importance of co-operative marketing as an important factor in relieving such conditions, and thanked the women of the state for their efforts in carrying forward the program they have adopted.

Reports on progress of curb markets established in their counties were made by Mrs. Sam Whatley, manager of the Baldwin county curb market; Mrs. W. C. Greene and Mrs. P. B. Babb, all of Milledgeville; Mrs. A. B. Conger, market manager at Bainbridge; Mrs. Hutch Williams, market manager for Coffee county, and Mrs. E. L. Tanner, both of Douglas, and Mrs. Marian Blackburn and Mrs. T. E. Reeve, both of Calhoun.

Miss Fannie B. Shaw, director of the division of health education, State Department of Health, told the meeting that one-third of Georgia's population of 3,000,000 is undernourished because of improper diet, and asked the support of the committee in the department's efforts to eradicate such conditions.

"The amazing thing about the situation," she said, "is that the lacks in diet which cause those people to be malnourished are fully supplied on Georgia farms. The responsibility is yours to see that this condition is overcome, for it is you who must lead the way."

### Negro Health Problem.

She also cited the negro health problem as a vital one facing the state, "because the lives of negroes in Georgia are so closely associated with those of white people."

She asked that rural mothers think, plan and do something to remedy child health in Georgia and to carry forward a program of adult health education.

The meeting also heard short talks from Mrs. Columbus Roberts, Mrs. Claude Smith, Atlanta, treasurer of the rural-urban conference; Mrs. Tennie DeJarnette, of the United States Forestry Service; Mrs. J. E. Morris, Atlanta; Miss Moina Michael, Athens, and Mrs. Frederick Shear, president of the Georgia Nurses' Association.

The committee expressed its appreciation to Mrs. Robin Wood, chairman, who is in charge of rural-urban work for the Department of Agriculture.

## Dalton Farmer Has First Cotton Bale

**DALTON, Ga., (SNS)—**Levi Branham, well known farmer of Spring Place, sold the first bale of cotton in Dalton Saturday.

The bale, which weighed 422 pounds and of this year's crop, brought 10 cents a pound.

Branham has brought the first bale of cotton to Dalton for the last several years, according to reports.

## NEGRO EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY HERE

**Live-at-Home Show Opened on  
Third Street Under Sponsorship of Home Agents**

A Negro Live-at-Home exhibit of farmers and their wives is on display this week at 521 Third Street near the Sears, Roebuck and Company building.

H. S. Lee, Negro county far agent, and Mayme Wesley, Negro county home demonstration agent, arranged the exhibit to present a picture of "just what is being done by Negroes in carrying out a live-at-home program in Bibb county."

A special display of canned goods was arranged by Marie Cooper, home economics teacher at Hudson High school. The goods were canned during the summer months by Negro women at the school.

Included in the canned display are vegetables, fruits, fruit juices, meats, soup mixtures, pickles, preserves, marmalades and jellies.

Farmers' displays include corn, sugar cane, sorghum, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, cushaw, peas, peanuts, meadow hay, soy beans and velvet beans.

Display of Negro housewives consist of ready-to-wear garments, quilts, spreads, braided, hook, woven and crochet rugs and household linens.

The exhibit will be open to the public until noon Saturday.

## Miles Hackney Has One of Finest Farms

**TUSKEGEE, Ala., Oct. 6 —** Officials from Washington, D. C., and the State of Georgia and farmers from sixteen counties recently visited the Soil Conservation demonstration farm of Miles Hackney, located near Union Point, Ga.

Mr. Hackney is recognized as an excellent farmer by AAA officials.

### Farm Commencement

**TUSKEGEE, Ala., Oct. 6 —** Emory C. Thomas, Negro County Agent located in Dublin, Georgia, announced plans for holding the first Farmers and Farm Women's Commencement. Certificates will be awarded to the farmers having the highest score in following AAA conservation and Live-at-Home program.

## Dawson Ready for Big Peanut Festival

**Parade, Pageant, Naming of Queen  
Highlights Oct. 31-Nov. 5 Celebration**

**DAWSON, Ga., Sept. 24.**—Beginning October 31 and lasting through November 5, Dawson, Terrell County and the southeast will pay homage to His Majesty King Peanut. The Southeastern Peanut Festival, as it is officially known, was originated in Dawson in 1935, and was the only one of its type held anywhere in the world. The 1938 festival holds promise of being most interesting to the hundreds who have already signified their intention of being present. One of the big features will be the selection and crowning of the queen of the festival.

There will be a parade of attractive floats with cities and towns of south Georgia represented. A gigantic pageant will be staged depicting the early history of this section of Georgia. There will be over a hundred characters in this spectacle and painstaking preparations are being taken to portray the historic life of the early settlers.

Festival Manager Henry S. Jennings, has arranged for a nightly fireworks display, an attractive midway, over 10,000 square feet of exhibit space.

Probably the most unusual event of the festival will be a beauty contest for mules. Terrell and neighboring counties boast of some very fine stock. To the best groomed, best fed and best all-around mule will go the title of "Miss Peanut" or "Mr. Peanut." Also to the winner goes a fine new bridle and a bale of choice hay.

Valuable cash prizes are listed for the outstanding displays and one entire section has been set aside for the display of articles manufactured from peanuts and peanut shells. An invitation has been extended Dr. George W. Carver, negro scientist, of Tuskegee, Ala., whose efforts in the experimental field have helped bring the peanut to the front as one of the major crops of today.

## Farmer Shows How To Make Good

**Union Point, Ga., Sept. 8 (ANP)**—Miles Hackney's 126 acre farm located near here which is recognized by AAA officials as a model demonstration of the value of soil conservation was recently inspected by Negro farmers from 14 counties and by a large group of state and Washington officials.

Because of Mr. Hackney's strict adherence to the AAA program, he has succeeded in making farming pay, and since his appointment as Collaborator for the AAA is much in demand as a speaker at farm meetings throughout the state.

In reply to a question by one of the visitors, Mr. Hackney said, "Cotton now stands forth on my list of crops. Corn and wheat come first; meat, lard butter and eggs second; and feed for work stock third. Recent rains and the boll weevil are not giving me much worry."

Those present, aside from Negro farmers and Negro county extension workers, included E. A. Miller, assistant to director Southern Extension, AAA.; Dr. J. A. Givens, administrative assistant, Georgia Extension service; J. H. Gibbons, county commissioner of Green County; President B. F. Hubert, Georgia State college; James P. Davis and A. L. Holsey, field officers, AAA; Mrs. M. A. Turner, Jeanes teacher; V. C. Turner, Alabama 4-H Club leader; and Alexander Hurse, Georgia 4-H Club leader. F. H. Stone, Negro State Extension leader for Georgia, presided.



# He's Dixie's Most Little Cotton Planted, Unusual Farmer Income Average \$1000

## Buster Wright Has 'One-Ox' Farm and Makes It Pay Handsome Dividends.

LEESBURG, Ga., Oct. 20—(Special)—A "one-horse" farm has for years been regarded by most people as agricultural endeavor at its lowest ebb—but Buster Wright not only operates a "one-ox" farm on rented land about a mile north of here, but makes it pay.

With only an ox to help him plow and till his small acreage, he has harvested a bale of cotton, four tons of peanuts, 60 bushels of corn, and raised enough hogs to provide himself and his family with meat for the next 12 months. Besides that, he has paid his rent, the advance made him until his crops were gathered, and had some cash left over.

During the summer he produced and sold nearly \$80 worth of watermelons; he and his wife have a big flock of chickens all season gathered plenty of vegetables from a small garden, and he has put up enough sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes to last him through the winter. He is now cutting a patch of cane which will furnish his annual supply of syrup.

Wagon City Telegraph  
November 6, 1933

### NEGRO SCHOOL HEAD WINS FORESTRY PRIZE

(Telegraph's Georgia News Service)  
QUITMAN, Nov. 5.—Benjamin Anderson, principal of the Brooks county training school, won second prize in a state contest for the best forestry project in colored schools. The prize will be delivered by C. A. Whittle, education director for the forestry department, at a special program next Thursday. Last year Anderson was principal at Blakely and won first prize. Coming here later he started a forestry project which won second prize while his successor at Blakely won first prize.

QUITMAN, Ga.—(SNS)—An annual net income of approximately \$1,000 per family is enjoyed by colored people of the prosperous Sirmans. The farm community in rural Brooks county were little cotton is planted. It was revealed Saturday. The prosperous farmers prefer production, peanuts, corn, hogs, cattle and chickens.

There are about forty families, of about 250 persons, in this community, which is a Brooks county pride. The foreparents of the residents settled there when freedom was declared and have stuck to owning their land and tilling it for best results.

### "LIVE-AT-HOME" PROGRAM

They have a "working live-at-

### Little Georgia

### Community Is

### Very Prosperous

home farm program," a night school for adult farmers, a vocational agriculture school, and a canning plant, which were listed as the first in the county. There is an accredited high school, from which many students go to college and into higher professions.

The present canning plant is a modern steam industry housed in a building near the school, whose principal, Benjamin Anderson, is a leader and tireless worker in the community. They "can anything fit to eat," he says.

The school is financed by state and county funds, but was started as a private institution. Teaching is year round.

Farm classes are build around seasonal problems and conducted usually for periods of ten weeks or until the project set up for study is complete. The canning plant, in a "bad season this year," put up 15,000 quarts of fruits and vegetables. In addition to the regular produce, the farmers canned chicken, fish, chitterlings, made pickled pigs feet and put up eggs in water glass.

### EVERYBODY LEARNS

Learning is a serious process in

the community where adult classes are well attended as the children's. An indexed library of government farm bulletins serves as a guide for the farmers. They study practical, everyday problems that are encountered on the farm. Youngsters study agriculture and home economics in addition to their regular subjects.

Community co-operation has led to manufacture of paint for community buildings from motor oil, at a fraction of the cost of commercial preparations, and the use of white wash on farm buildings. Native shrubbery is used for landscaping the school grounds.

Some of the larger farmers in the community are Oscar and Mack Thomas who own 300 and 200 acres respectively; Kellogg Sirmans with 200 acres; and G. C. Wooten, son of one of the founders of the community. Dempsey Wooten, who urged on every occasion that "the Negro who owns land will never starve; it's the city folks who go hungry."

White citizens in the county are proud of the inhabitants of the community. They say that delinquency is exceedingly low in the area.



Macon, Ga., News  
February 5, 1938

## NEGRO FARMERS

### PLAN HAM SHOW

W. T. Anderson to Be Main  
Speaker at Fort Valley;  
Prizes Provided for Winners

W. T. Anderson, Macon publisher, will speak at the annual ham and egg show and sale at the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial (Negro) school March 4.

The invitation to the Macon editor to be principal speaker at the show came from O. S. O'Neal, Peach county Negro agricultural agent.

Mr. Anderson has offered, in addition to other prizes he has awarded the farmers at former shows \$25 in cash for the best hams produced. He said \$15 will go for the premium ham and \$10 for the second best. They will be selected by show judges.

Mr. Anderson said today he was "more than pleased with the progress these farmers, under the direction of Agent O'Neal, have made." He attended the original show arranged by the agent 19 years ago.

#### First-Class Show

"It has been amazing and gratifying to me to watch the progress O'Neal has made with his group," the editor said. "When I went to that first show the results were small and the products were rather ordinary. Now he and his men put on a first-class meat and egg show."

The editor, as in former years, will give six subscriptions of six months each to The Macon Telegraph to exhibitors selected by the judges.

"I am proud to be identified with the work O'Neal has done," Mr. Anderson said.

He said he would explain the work and aims of the new Georgia Banner Hams Association to the farmers and urge them to attain quality and quantity, which with attractive packaging will bring "fancy prices".

The show will be a two-day event, March 3 and 4.

## Figures in Fort Valley Show



SEVERAL LEADING figures in the ham and egg show at Fort Valley Normal and Industrial school Friday are shown in these pictures. Above, Publisher W. T. Anderson is shown with, reading from left to right, C. A. Ragins, Raymond Miller and O. S. O'Neal. Ragins sold his first prize ham to Mr. Anderson for \$15, and Miller sold his second prize entry to the publisher for \$10. O'Neal is the Negro county agent for Peach and director of the show, which is an annual event. Jones Purcell, Tifton, extension service swine specialist and judge of the hams, is shown looking at one of the fine joints. Below, Miss Thelma Wilson, English teacher at Fort Valley high school, who acted as one of the judges of cookery, and Margaret Toomer, Peach Negro home demonstration agent, are shown looking at some eggs. (Staff photos by Boone).



### Success of Ham-and-Egg Show

If Negro farmers throughout Georgia could catch the vision and purpose which, 20 years ago, inspired O. S. O'Neal, Negro farm demonstration agent of Peach county, and have been carried forward to a culmination such as the annual "ham-and-egg" show staged Friday at the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School, thousands would be lifted from poverty and dependence to thrift and prosperity, and even the white farmers of the state would find much to imitate.

When O'Neal put on his first ham-and-egg show, then as now, with the active co-operation of the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School, the outlook was not encouraging. It was an humble beginning, to put it mildly. A cheese-box, filled with dirty eggs, and chickens of various breeds, with frizzly Frieslands and "Dominikers" predominating, practically constituted the show. 3-6-38

But year after year, with patient zeal, he has carried on his work of training and educating Negro farmers in the best methods of raising and curing meat and in developing poultry, until Friday's show included exhibits from 300 4-H Negro farm boys and girls and men and women from all over Peach county, with interested visitors from adjoining



ing counties. There were chickens and eggs to begin the scientific curing, packaging and mar- go with the ham, but perhaps it is not in- keting of a standard quality of ham which vidious to say that ham ruled the day. The will be recognized all over the country.

300 pieces of meat weighed more than 6 thou- The ham-and egg show at Fort Valley is an sand pounds and there was much interest in economic landmark and Friday's exhibition car- the awarding of prizes, made by Mr. Jones ries it a step further toward enduring and Purcell, swine specialist from Tifton. far-reaching success.

The quality of this meat left nothing to be desired. It presented an attractive appear- ance as it lay spread on a table in front of the speaker's platform. But it had an even wider significance as indicating what the Ne- gro farmers of Georgia can do under enlight- ened instruction and with a real desire to lift themselves by thrift and industry from the subsistence level to real prosperity.

Bishop W. A. Fountain of Atlanta, leader in the Negro Methodist Church, made a valuable contribution by urging the Negroes of Georgia to remain here in the state, where he finds they are really happier than anywhere else, with ample opportunity to get on in the world.

It is not too much to say that William E. Brown, Negro janitor of The Telegraph and News, "stole the show" with his story of how he had started to raising hogs on a small scale and had now built up an extensive busi- ness. One of his hams on exhibition, well cured and neatly packaged in Cellophane, was one of the most attractive on display, though not entered for a prize.

When presented to the audience by the edi- tor of The Telegraph and News, Brown told his story and answered questions with ready facility born of an intimate knowledge gained by experience. He had applied the methods previously outlined by the editor of The Tele- graph and News along the line that a hog does not like filth any better than a cat or a dog and remains practically free from disease when raised in sanitary surroundings. While the theory that "there is no such thing as cholera" among hogs may be controversial, there is abundant evidence that the animals, when raised in clean and wholesome surroundings, do not suffer from it.

Brown's experience in "share-cropping" a number of hogs each year was listened to with rapt attention. It is a commentary on the general honesty of human nature that with his system of placing two pigs with a farm- er to be raised "on halves" he has never found, at the end of the season that "his hog" has died and the share-cropper's hog has survived. In short, he has found fairness and integrity at all times.

The occasion at Fort Valley on Friday has a larger significance because it fits in with the broad movement of the Banner Ham As- sociation to build up the live-stock industry generally and particularly to establish at Coch- ran, as a nucleus, an abattoir, with the as- sistance of the Georgia Power Company, and

## Ft. Valley's Ham Egg Show Proves Big Success

FT. VALLEY, Ga. (SNS)— Thursday and Friday brought again Fort Valley's wonderful Ham and Egg Show which seemed the climax of all previous exhibi- tions. There were 250 hams be- sides sides of bacon, cured and attractively staged all across the auditorium and 100 dozen fine eggs. The 4-H boys and girls came in a swarm from Houston and Peach counties to the number of 600. In addition, 400 farmer and their wives who enlarged the exhibition which included cake submitted by farmers' wives in contest for prizes. There was also a contest for the best hams for prizes of \$25 offered by the Macon Telegraph.

The whole program was enliven- ed by music from the Fort Valley choir and by a heated debate on the subject, "Resolved: Tha Poultry is of More Value than Hog." The decision went to the speakers for poultry but the audi- ence was in favor of those who argued for swine.

Among the prominent visitors were Bishop W. A. Fountain, of the African Methodist Episcopal church; Hon. W. T. Anderson, editor of the Macon Telegraph; Jones Purcell, state swine special- ist; Eugene Anderson, Miss Camil- la Weems, assistant State Agent for Negro Extension Workers in Georgia; Alexander Hurst, State Club Agent; A. Price, successful business man of Atlanta, and many others. All of the speak- ers gave glowing tributes to the Ham Show and to the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School.

## HAM-EGG MEETING TERMED SUCCESS

Fort Valley Negro Farmer Praised by W. T. Anderson

### for Quality Exhibits

Negro farmer folk of Peach coun- ty exhibited their prize hams and their choicest eggs at the Fort Val- ley Normal and Industrial school yesterday. From miles around came hard- working farmers and farm women all eager to display the meat from their best shoats and the eggs from their best flocks.

They came too for words of ad- vice on better farming—for new ideas on how to do old tasks better. Words of advice flowed from the lips of a number of speakers, in- cluding Publisher W. T. Anderson of The Macon Telegraph and Eve- ning News, Bishop W. A. Fountain, Atlanta, leader in the Negro Meth- odist church, and others.

### Prize Hams Bought

Their speeches followed purchase by Mr. Anderson of the first prize ham from C. H. Ragins for \$11 and of the second best ham in the show from Raymond Miller for \$10. Six others received six-months sub- scriptions to The Telegraph as prizes.

The two prize hams, selected by Jones Purcell, swine specialist from Tifton, were among more than 300 pieces of meat which together weighed approximately 6,000 pounds.

O. S. O'Neal, Peach Negro farm agent who started the show 17 years ago and who has seen it grow from a small project to an event attract- ing attention from several adjoining counties, acted as master of cere- monies. He was assisted by S. H. Lee, Negro county agent with head- quarters here, and Margaret Toom- er, Negro home demonstration agent of Peach county.

### Improvement Seen

Mr. Anderson and Bishop Foun- tain were the principal speakers. Mr. Anderson complimented the Peach farmers on improvement in the shows, every one of which he has attended.

He spoke of the value of thrift and dependability, and envisioned a prosperous and happy life on the farm for those who work intelli- gently.

Glancing at the hundreds of pieces of cured meat spread out on the platform in front of the stage Mr. Anderson stressed the possibili- ties of developing a major industry in production of Georgia hams.

### Banner Hams Group

But, he cautioned, the hams must come from healthy hogs which are raised apart from the stench and filth usually found around pig pens. And the hams must be cured uni- formly, packed properly, and ship- ped under an attractive and exclu- sive label, he advised.

To attain that goal, the Georgia Banner Hams Association has been organized, the speaker explained, and the purpose is to provide a ready market for farm hams, which will be cured and packaged under expert supervision. Anderson is president of the association.

Mr. Anderson also spoke of the future possibilities in pine, saying that new uses for the tree fibers are being discovered by science regularly. Recently, he told the congregation of several hundred, a scientist told him that a method of manufacturing fine silk from pine fibers had been developed. "Some day the time may come when we can just sit in the shade and go out and cut down a pine tree when we need money," he de- clared.

Bishop Fountain, whose stately figure has filled many a pulpit, urged the Negroes to remain on their farms and make a living there. He discouraged movement of Ne- groes to the North and said that he never had found people anywhere happier than they are in Georgia. In addition to the speech-making, students at the school sang several spirituals.

Between the afternoon and morn- ing sessions, barbecued pork, Bruns- wick stew and other dishes were served to about 300 4-H Negro farm boys and girls and to as many white guests of the school.

In addition to the eggs and meat, cakes also were on display. Miss Thelma Wilson of the Fort Valley high school faculty was one of the judges and announced winners.

One of the features of the pro- gram was an account by W. E. Brown, Negro janitor for The Tele- graph, of his experiences as a hog raiser.

### In Business Two Years

Brown started two years ago with six pigs bought for a total of \$9. He has fed his hogs on bruised vegetables from Macon markets and on table scraps from Macon eating places.

Now he has a drove of swine, including one of his original pigs which is used as a boar.

Brown told of his methods of rais- ing hogs, emphasizing the necessity of providing plenty of clean water and sanitary bedding, and those in the audience asked questions about his work in developing a thriving meat business from a small start. He has sold several hundred pounds.

The Negro said he kills his hogs at from 11 months to 12 months, and that he has a number "out on halves" with Negro farmers in the country around Macon.

Macon, Ga., News  
March 3, 1938

## NEGRO HAM SHOW GETS UNDER WAY

Exhibits Placed for Fort Valley Event; Publisher to Speak Tomorrow

W. T. Anderson, Macon publisher will speak at the Negro farmers' ham and egg show tomorrow at the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School.

The show opened today under the direction of O. S. O'Neil, Negro Peach county agricultural agent, and will close tomorrow afternoon. Exhibits were placed today.

Mr. Anderson, who has been co- operating with the Negroes in their efforts to produce better meat for a score of years, will offer a group of prizes also to the producer of first quality hams. He will give \$15 to the farmer who has what is considered the best ham, \$10 to the second best, and six Macon Tele- graph subscriptions of six months each to the next half dozen best producers.

### To Explain Work

The editor said he would explain the setup and aims of the newly organized Georgia Better Hams As- sociation, of which he is president, and stress the importance in raising hogs under sanitary conditions.

Mr. Anderson said he has been at- tending County Agent O'Neal's shows since he held the first one "about 20 years ago."

"It has been with gratification that I have watched these farmers, under O'Neal's leadership, put on a better show each year," he said. "They are really doing fine work now and I am pleased to be asso- ciated with it in any way I may."



# Agriculture - 1938 Improvement of.

Illinois

## Farmer Makes Millions

A farmer in El Paso, Illinois, counts on a half million dollars from his corn crop this year, and he made over four hundred thousand dollars last year. In 1935 he took in only \$35,000; and in 1936 he did "some better." His income that year was \$150,000.

The Country Home Magazine is responsible for the story. It is more than interesting if true; and the authority is entirely trustworthy.

The farmer is named Pfister, and his neighbors thought he had lost his mind when he spent his time putting paper bags over the corn tassels in his field. He did this for ten years, before anybody could see what he was driving at. His other farming was "going to the dogs" while he fooled with those corn tassels. But when in 1935 he sold his seed corn for ten dollars a bushel and raised six to 35 bushels an acre more than anybody else could raise, they came to understand. He had gone in rags to develop an idea. When he first started his scheme he planted his corn behind a hedge so nobody would make fun of him.

His theory was that breeding seed is as important as breeding bulls for the cattle business. He wanted to shut stray pollen out of his field. His neighbors "figgered" he was wrapping up the tassels to keep the shucks from freezing. But Pfister had bought seed from 388 ears of top-notch Knap corn. On the tassel of each stalk grown from this seed he fastened a paper bag and on each ear shoot he tied another bag. When he thought the bag was full of pollen he slipped it off and inverted it quickly over the silk of the ear on the same stalk. Then he snapped off the tassel. This was inbreeding. During his experiments he used 100,000 bags and made 50,000 hand pollinations.

At harvest he found stalks thick as a baseball bat but wouldn't stand erect; also tassels without pollen, cobs without kernels. Some stalks bore runty ears, but were rooted deep and stood straight and strong. Ruthlessly he discarded the weaklings, saving only 115 ears that showed promise. The following spring he planted the salvaged seed. In 1929, after five years of discouraging effort, he was down to four ears. This was the result of his inbreeding for five generations. But these four ears had seed that were tough and strong. He was proceeding on the philosophy that enabled Scotland to produce the Aber-

deen Angus and the Whiteface Herefords.

He wanted seed that could stand drought as well as excess moisture. They must send their roots deep down among the earth's minerals. Snorts and laughter greeted him wherever he went. But he culled and destroyed until chinchbugs and grasshoppers passed him up, and droughts couldn't hurt him.

He borrowed from his sisters and brothers and from the bank until he was \$32,000 in debt. His hair turned white, his weight fell, and he and his children were reduced to a diet of corn meal and mush, and had to wear cardboard in their holey shoes.

But not any more. Pfister is suddenly, after long suffering and humiliation, the richest farmer that ever depended upon corn-growing for a living. He says Secretary Henry Wallace gave him the idea back in Wallace's newspaper days.



## Uncle Bill' Sets An Example For Arkansas Negro Farmers, Winning Live-at-Home Award

The Son of Slave Parents, He Is Champion Over 3000  
In His State—Bought Land in 1904 and Paid  
It Out Within Three Years

At the end of the Civil War a five-year-old negro boy and his parents gave thanks for their freedom.

Today the same negro, his hair white with the toil of 78 years is the first negro Live-At-Home champion of Arkansas and a glowing example of success for the members of his race to follow.

He is "Uncle Bill" Smith of Marianna, Ark., who defeated more than 3000 negro farm families for the right to represent Arkansas in the first annual negro Live-At-Home Sweepstakes award of \$250 offered by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee and the trophy offered by The Commercial Appeal.

As first place winner in the World State, "Uncle Bill" and his wife Mary, will receive \$50, and will represent the state, for the grand award. They will be presented the \$50 award and certificate of honor at the luncheon to be held in Memphis Dec. 7 at Manassas High School.

Second place and an award of \$25 went to James and Georgia Beard of Chidester in Ouachita County. Paul and Marzella Kelley of Holly Grove, Ark., in Monroe County won \$15 for third place and Dock and Ida Netterville of Wilson in Mississippi County won \$10 for place fourth.

All of the finalists in the negro Live-At-Home Competition made excellent records, showing that negro farmers who followed the live-at-home program of the Extension Department can get more than a meager living from the soil.

Blazing a trail for young farmers to follow, "Uncle Bill" Smith believes that the members of his race should return to the farm and that they should be shown that production of food and feed are the most essential items to be raised on the farm.

"My people must be made to grow their food and feed," said Uncle Bill. "They won't do it unless you get behind them. I just hope they'll learn some day."

### Began Farming In 1884

"I started farming in 1884 and made two crops," he said. "And the first thing I bought was a mule and some farming equipment. I started buying this 110-acre farm back in 1904 and finished paying for it in 1907 and have been living here for 34 years. I bought my farm by making payments."

## Hardeman County Negro Farm Is State Live-At-Home Winner

A 45-year-old negro farmer from Hardeman County, Tennessee, who has sent three of his six children to college and who will become a landowner next year, is the 1938 Live-At-Home champion of Tennessee.

He is Robert Lambert Jr., who farms a 175-acre farm near Whiteville, Tenn., on Highway 64. Robert and his wife, Lucilla, defeated approximately 4000 negro farm families in West Tennessee to win the coveted award.

### Seeks More Honors

He will receive the state award of \$50 and will compete with winners in Arkansas and Mississippi for the \$250 award offered by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, and the trophy given by The Commercial Appeal.

Heeding the advice of his extension agents, Robert diversified his farm program this year, raising, in addition to cotton, corn, peas, hay, peanuts, potatoes, and truck. His sale of livestock increased his income by more than \$300.

His wife has seen that the food supply will carry the family through the winter. They have food valued at \$447.05 on hand now and have eaten food valued at \$408.05 during the year. They have spent only \$79.40 for food not raised on the farm during the year. There are seven members of the family at home.

### \$1207 Net Income

Robert had a net income of \$1207.05 for the year.

Writing of the Live-At-Home contest, Robert said:

"It has meant much to me and family. It has prompted us to work our garden and truck patches as never before. We have had plenty for our use and some for the market. We sell what we do not use to buy what we do not raise. We canned 500 quarts of vegetables and stored 60 bushels of sweet potatoes, 40 bushels of Irish potatoes, a bushel of dried beans, peanuts, and other vegetables and have two large hogs for meat and lard. We raised most of our feed and would have raised it all but the drouth came. We papered one room and hall and bought two rocking chairs, a rug, and painted up some furniture."

Second place and an award of \$25 went to Eugene McFerrin, 56-year-old landowner of Fayette County. Third place went to Frank Thacker of Montgomery County, who wins \$15, and fourth place and \$10 went to Marshall H. Trice of Chester County.

E. R. Shockley, negro county agent of Hardeman County, and the negro home demonstration agent, Emma Person, were praised highly by the Tennessee Live-At-Home Judging Committee for their efforts in the contest.

## TRIBUTE WILL BE PAID NEGRO FARM WINNERS

### Live-At-Home Champs Come To Memphis Wednesday

Triumphant progress that negro farm families are making in the MidSouth will be paid to the Live-At-Home Champions of Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi at 1 o'clock Wednesday at Manassas High School by The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee.

Leading negro agriculturists of the MidSouth, and Memphis negro business men along with the county champions and extension workers will attend the luncheon. Approximately 200 are expected from progressive communities in the MidSouth.

Professor A. W. Curtis Jr., assistant director of the Tuskegee Agricultural Research and Experiment Station, will be the principal speaker, discussing the progress that the negro farmers in the South are making and how the Live-At-Home program is a basis for safe farming.

Professor Curtis is assistant to Dr. George Washington Carver, noted negro scientist of Tuskegee Institute. He is the first and only assistant that the scientist has had and one who has been designated to continue the experiments that Dr. Carver has begun.

Professor Curtis was born in Institute, W. Va., and attended the elementary and high schools there. He received his B.S. degree from the Cornell College of Agriculture in 1932. He taught for a time at the A. & T. College in Greensboro, N. C. In the Summer of 1935 he was selected as assistant to Dr. Carver.

### Activities Varied

Since 1935 Professor Curtis has made finger paints from clay, water color, soap, facial lotion and perfume from the magnolia, wood stains from coffee grounds, a cheap paint from clay and worn-out mo-

tor oil and is now working on the possibilities of making plastic material from peanuts.

Dr. Carver tentatively accepted the invitation to appear on the program early in the year, but he was forced to cancel his engagement because of failing health. Dr. Carver recommended Professor Curtis as the person to take his place on the program.

Local negro educators, knowing the ability of Professor Curtis, have made arrangements to have a number of the upper classmen in their schools to attend the address. Several hundred seats have been reserved for Memphians who are making plans to hear the address.

The first annual Live-At-Home program will begin at 11 o'clock with the invocation by Rev. Jesse L. Campbell, A. A. Latting, attorney, will be master of ceremonies with E. R. Shockley, Hardeman County negro agent and R. H. Brown, Shelby County negro agent, introducing the speakers. Attorney Latting and Prof. J. A. Hayes of Manassas High School will welcome the visitors.

### Plan Luncheon Program

Following the address by Professor Curtis, the county winners and other guests will be honored at the Live-At-Home Luncheon. A special program of music will be furnished by the Manassas High School.

At the close of the dinner, district agents will present the certificates of honor to the county winners. State awards will be presented by Eugene Rutland, director of the Plant Industry Bureau of the Commercial Appeal. R. B. Snowden Jr., chairman of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee will make the presentation of the \$250 Sweepstakes award and Mr. Rutland will present the Live-At-Home Trophy. County winners and agents will be guests of The Commercial Appeal at a movie party following the luncheon through the courtesy of Joe Maceri of the Daisy Theater.

Mr. Snowden has urged the members of the Agricultural Committee to make plans to attend the sessions Wednesday.

## LIVE-AT-HOME WINNERS PRAISED AS PIONEERS

Their Methods Seen as Way  
To Cure Agricultural Ills

ADDRESSED BY CURTIS



## Tuskegee Scientist Puts Responsibility for Success Of Farm Movement Upon The Negro Farmer Himself

Negro Live-at-Home Competition winners heard themselves described yesterday as pioneers in a movement offering one cure for the agricultural ills of the South.

They were addressed at Manassas School by A. W. Curtis Jr., assistant and probable eventual successor to Dr. George Washington Carver, eminent negro scientist of Tuskegee Institute. Upon the negro farmer himself lies the responsibility for success of the Live-at-Home movement, he said.

### Carver Urged Work

"Forty years ago Dr. Carver began his work to encourage farmers to conserve their soil, use what is considered waste, and live off their own shelves," Dr. Curtis said. "But these sound principles were not adopted generally. There were only a few willing to change the course they were pursuing.

"Before conditions can be improved, better educational opportunities must be afforded," he said as he put upon his listeners the responsibility for carrying the message of "live at home" back to their friends and neighbors. "Darkness resulting from ignorance must be removed," he said.

Longer school terms, better teachers better trained, and parity in financial support of negro education are necessary before much can be accomplished, Dr. Curtis said.

### All Must Help

"It is not a task for any one group but a job to be done by all joining hands and working in a Christ-like harmony for the good of all," he said. He told the negro winners that their presence there signified that they realized the importance of an efficient farm program and the necessity for eliminating waste, improving the home, health and cleanliness.

"The success you have had on your farms is an indication that we have come a long way since the days of slavery, but the road ahead is still rocky," the scientist declared. "You are examples to others, and only by encouraging them to do as others do can we say the job has been well done."

### Stresses Diversification

Diversification, synonymous with "live at home," is one answer to the problem of the farm negro, he pointed out. Dependence on cotton as a sole cash crop is folly, he went on. He called attention to the gradual usurpation of the world cotton market by foreign countries.

"I commend you individually upon your success," he concluded. "But as a group we cannot boast of the progress that has been made. We must do away with preventable diseases—pellagra, syphilis, and

hookworm, and with the shanties with roofs through which the stars can be seen at night. Let us build something for generations yet unborn."

Winners in the first annual Live-at-Home Competition are:

Sweepstakes champions and winners of the \$250 award of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee and The Commercial Appeal Live-at-Home Trophy are Carter and Beulah Thompson of Oxford, Miss.

Extension trophy for producing the sweepstakes champions awarded to Daisy Montgomery, negro home demonstration agent of Lafayette County, Miss.

Extension Enrollment trophy for enrolling the largest number of farm families in one county—Larue Cleaves and J. F. Jeffries of Haywood County, Tenn.

Arkansas State Awards—William R. Smith of Marianna, first and \$50; James Beard of Chidester, Ark., second and \$25 in cash; Paul W. Kelly of Holly Grove, Ark., third and \$15 and Dock Netterville of Wilson, fourth and \$10.

Mississippi State Awards—Carter B. Thompson, Oxford, first and \$50 in cash; Sam Cook, Magnolia, second and \$25; Daniel McKinney, Sunflower, third and \$15 and Charlie Horton, Terry, fourth, and \$10.

### Whiteville Man First

Tennessee State Awards—Robert Lambert Jr., Whiteville, first and \$50; Eugene McFerrin, second and \$25; Frank Thacker, Clarksville, third and \$15 and Marshall H. Trice, Henderson, fourth and \$10.

Certificates of honor were awarded to the following county winners:

ARKANSAS: Arkansas County—Will Montgomery, Almyra; Ashley County—Anderson Ivey, Baydell; Clarke County—Perry Wood, Gurdon; Cleveland County—H. L. and Effie Stevens, Rison; Columbia County—Leroy Cochran, Magnolia; Conway County—Jeff Coleman, Menifee; Crittenden County—John and Leoda Gammon Jr., Marion; Cross County—Will and Ada Warren, Colt; Dallas County—Henry Valentine, Fordyce; Faulkner County—Rachel Garrett, Wooster.

Howard County—Logan Coulter, Nashville; Jackson County—Oliver Hatchett and wife, Auvergne; Jefferson County—W. M. Jordon Jr., Sherrill; Lafayette County—Holdman Sanders, McKamie; Lee County—Wm. R. and Mary Smith, Marianna; Miller County—Nimrod Smith, Garland; Mississippi County, Dock Netterville, Wilson; Monroe County—Thomas Painter, Pine City; Nevada County—H. W. Mendenhall.

Ouachita County—James Beard, Chidester; Phillips County—Houston Morrow, Marvell; Poinsett County—Edwin T. Laird, Trumann; Pulaski County—W. R. Ashmore, England; Sevier County—Wm. D. Murphy, Locksburg; St. Francis County—John H. Williams, Palestine; Union County—Frank and

Pearleen Massey, El Dorado; the best use of their land and their talents will be honored at the Live-at-Home Program of The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee at 11 o'clock this morning at Manassas High School, Firestone Boulevard and Manassas Street.

TENNESSEE: Chester County—Marshall and Minnie Trice, Henderson; Fayette County—Eugene McFerrin, Somerville; Gibson County—Luther Barnett, Trenton; Hardeman County—Robert L. Lambert, Whiteville; Haywood County—Frank Outlaw, Brownsville; Henderson County—Virgie Priddy, Lexington; Lauderdale County—Albert Lockard, Ripley; Madison County—Clarence C. Day, Mercer; Montgomery County—Frank Thatcher, Clarksville; Shelby County—H. A. Suttles, Ellendale; Tipton County—T. Mack Miller, Burlington and Davidson County—G. W. Senter, Nashville.

MISSISSIPPI: Attala County—W. P. Ashford, Kosciusko; Calhoun County—Elmer Enochs, Vardaman; Coahoma County—Sims Waters, Friars Point; Copiah County—Lollie McNeil, Glancy; Covington County—J. B. Booth, Taylorsville; Hinds County—Charles Horton, Terry; Holmes County—Nick and Mary Archer, Lexington; Humphreys County—Peter Talbert, Louise; Issaquena County—Ben Woods, Tallula; Itawamba County—Troy Sargent, Nettleton; Jefferson Davis—Hallie Lucas, Prentiss; Lafayette County—Carter B. Thompson, Oxford; Lowndes County—James Glenn, Columbus.

Madison County—Percy Conway, Camden; Pike County—Sam Cook, Magnolia; Quitman County—Willie Moneese, Falcon; Scott County—Fate Ammons, Hillsboro; Sharkey County—D. W. Tatum, Pantherburn; Sunflower County—Daniel McKinney, Sunflower; Tallahatchie County—T. K. Wilbourn, Charleston; Union County—Jodie Foster, Myrtle; Warren County—Elijah H. Smith, Redwood, Washington County—Mack Humphrey, Greenville; Wayne County—Orange Turner, Waynesboro; Winston County—N. O. Miller, Louisville; Yazoo County—Essie Griffin, Bentonia and Amite County—W. M. Blake, Gloster.

LIVE-AT-HOME WINNER TO BE CHOSEN TODAY

County Titlists, Wives and Advisers Here Today

AWARDS CLIMAX PROGRAM

First Annual Luncheon Will See Selection Of MidSouth Champion Farmer—State Honors To Be Dispensed

Negro farmers who have made

At-Home Program of The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee at 11 o'clock this morning at Manassas High School, Firestone Boulevard and Manassas Street.

Approximately 250 county winners and their wives, extension agents and negro agricultural leaders are expected to take part in the festivities which will be climaxed by selection of the first Live-at-Home champion of the MidSouth.

### Three In Finals

Some 10,000 negro farm families from Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas have participated in the competition, which stresses living at home, diversification, soil conservation and home improvement.

State elimination contests have cut the number to three. These entered the sweepstakes for the \$250 award of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee and The Commercial Appeal Live-at-Home trophy, symbolic of excellence in agriculture.

Seeking the sweepstake title are Carter B. Thompson of Lafayette County, Miss.; William R. Smith of Lee County, Ark.; and Robert Lambert Jr. of Whiteville, Tenn.

State awards totaling \$300 will be awarded to the state winners and each county winner will receive the 1938 certificate of honor. The Live-at-Home Extension Trophy will be awarded to Larue Cleaves and F. E. Jeffries of Haywood County, Tenn., for enrolling the largest number.

### Honor Extension Agent

The Commercial Appeal also will award a trophy to the extension agent whose entry is chosen the sweepstakes champion.

Seeking to show the way to a more comfortable living, The Commercial Appeal has brought to Memphis A. W. Curtis Jr., assistant director of agricultural research at Tuskegee Institute, who will speak at 11:30 o'clock on "Progress That Negro Farmers Are Making in the South."

A 15-minute musical program featuring spirituals loved by negroes of the South will be presented at the opening of the program. The invocation will be given by Rev. Jesse L. Campbell, Prof. J. A. Hayes, principal of Manassas High School, will welcome the visitors on behalf of the school and introduce A. A. Latting, negro attorney, who will be master of ceremonies.

Several numbers will be presented by the Manassas High School Glee Club. Guests will be introduced by E. R. Shockley, negro agent of Hardeman County. A 10-minute movie, "The Life of George Washington Carver," will follow. Professor Curtis will be introduced by R. H. Brown, Shelby County negro agent.

### Theater Party

Following the address, the coun-

ty winners and guests will be honored at the Live-at-Home Luncheon, during which the certificates of honor, state awards and other trophies will be awarded. District agents will award the certificates of honor; Eugene Rutland, director of the Plant To Prosper Competition, will make the state awards and R. B. Snowden Jr., chairman of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, will make the sweepstakes award.

Later the county winners and other guests will attend a show at the Daisy Theater on Beale.

## The Live-at-Home Contest

Negro farm families of Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee to a total number of about 10,000 have been taking part in the Live-at-Home Competition sponsored by The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee. The agricultural extension services of the four states mentioned have co-operated in the work. The competition reaches its climax here on Dec. 7, Wednesday, and we believe the records made will prove of genuine interest to everyone in the MidSouth.

The broad purpose of this competition is revealed in its title, for the effort has been to assist negro farm families in making as much of their living at home as was possible economically. Second to that has been emphasis on the improvement of home conditions. In general, the idea is to aid our negro farmers to become more prosperous residents of the community to their own profit and the profit of all with whom they deal. In addition to that, the possession of substantial goods is the one surest way to keep away any danger of radicalism from any class or race.

In any event, the meeting of Live-at-Home winners here on Wednesday next will be interesting and revealing, for many of the contestants have done extraordinarily good jobs this year.

## It Can Be Done

That a well-balanced live-at-home program is not beyond the reach of every farm family in the MidSouth, no matter how humble, was amply demonstrated yesterday. It was the occasion of the awarding of prizes in the Live-at-Home Competition of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee and The Commercial Appeal.

This particular contest was limited to negroes. Ten thousand negro families of the MidSouth entered the competition.

The sweepstakes prize of \$250 went to a 61-year-old negro farmer in Mississippi and his 51-year-old wife. They spent approximately \$100 for food not raised on their farm for a family of eight, and their net profit for the year was \$2,542.46. Other winners throughout the section showed remarkable records. It all added up to a tremendous effort on the part of these 10,000 families to improve their condition and to contribute to the better farming and better living program.

When the South's income is increased by a dollar, that is one dollar added to the South's purchasing power. When a dollar is saved by raising something on the farm that formerly was bought somewhere else, or which was generally done without, the prosperity and independence of the community



Agriculture - 1938.

Live-at-Home Competition.

Improvement of

Negro Live-At-Home

Memphis, Tenn.  
Competition

Negro Live-At-Home Competition,  
Care The Commercial Appeal,  
Memphis, Tenn.

I want to enter the 1938 Negro Live-At-Home Competition as a  
contestant for the \$650 in cash awards, The Commercial Appeal  
Trophies and The Commercial Appeal Certificate of Honor.

My name is.....  
(PLEASE PRINT)

I get my mail at.....Route.....  
(PLEASE PRINT)

.....  
(County)

.....  
(State)

Enter me as a  
Landowner ( )  
Tenant-sharecropper ( )  
Check one thus (X)

The size of my farm is.....acres, with.....  
acres in cultivation.

This is the entry blank which every farm family must fill out prop-  
erly and send to the Negro Live-At-Home Competition in care of The  
Commercial Appeal in order to be eligible for awards offered for follow-  
ing a program of diversified farming, living-at-home, soil conservation  
and home improvement.

The signing of this blank involves no obligation on the part of the  
farm family. However, it is necessary that those competing for the  
awards send a blank to the Negro Live-At-Home Competition.

## Negro Live-At-Home Drive To Be Launched Tomorrow

By EUGENE RUTLAND

Opening the enrollment drive in  
the \$650 Negro Live-at-Home Com-  
petition, negro agricultural leaders  
of Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi  
and Missouri will carry the mes-  
sage of living-at-home to more  
than 100 counties in the Mid-South  
this week.

Negro county agents and negro  
home demonstration agents and  
newspaper editors have received  
supplies of enrollment blanks and  
rules, and will begin their cam-  
paign tomorrow.

Officials of the extension serv-  
ices of the Mid-South have ap-  
proved plans for the competition  
and have urged the agents to stress  
the benefits the negro farmers will  
receive from growing their own

food and feed.  
Shelby County's enrollment drive,  
directed by R. A. Brown, agent at  
Lucy, was started last week with  
the opening community meeting at  
the Millington negro High School.  
Special recognition will be given  
the negro county and home agents  
who enroll the largest number of  
farm families in the competition.  
They will receive a trophy given by  
The Commercial Appeal.

All negro farm families in Ar-  
kansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and  
Missouri are eligible to compete.  
Enrollment blanks may be ob-  
tained at the county agent's office  
or clipped from today's issue of  
The Commercial Appeal.

Winners of the competition in  
each qualified county will receive

The Commercial Appeal Certificate  
of Honor and an invitation to the  
Negro Live-at-Home luncheon to  
be held in Memphis.

Winners in the county will com-  
pete for the state prizes. First  
place winner will receive \$50, sec-  
ond, \$25, third, \$15, and fourth, \$10.  
The champion negro farm family  
in the Mid-South will receive the  
\$250 sweepstakes award.

## Negro Leaders Speed Interest In Live-at-Home Competition

Taking the lead in the Negro  
Live-at-Home Competition, Ten-  
nessee negro extension agents and  
newspaper editors yesterday began  
their drive to enroll negro farm  
families in the competition and to  
show them how the contest will  
increase their net income.

J. H. White, of Whiteville, editor  
of the Mid-South Progress, newly  
organized negro weekly, announced  
yesterday that the Progress will  
assist The Commercial Appeal in  
making the competition a success  
in West Tennessee and that his  
paper will offer special county  
awards.

"The Mid-South Progress is  
sponsoring a Live-at-Home Com-  
petition for negro farmers in co-  
operation with The Commercial  
Appeal and in taking on this re-  
sponsibility we feel that we can  
render a real service to our peo-  
ple," said Editor White.

"It is a sad fact that negro  
farmers have for generations gone  
along doing the same things and,  
as a whole, doing little toward  
establishing for themselves a sub-  
stantial program of progressive  
farming. The competition offers a  
splendid opportunity and we hope  
that entries will begin rolling in  
right away," he said.

R. H. Brown, negro county agent  
of Shelby County, has begun his  
enrollment drive, and reported that  
a "large number of farm families  
had enrolled in Shelby County al-  
ready" and that he expects to have  
1000 entered before the enrollment  
drive closes.

Hardeman County negro exten-  
sion agents and agricultural lead-  
ers in Madison County have begun  
their work also.

In Hardeman County, special  
meetings are being held this week  
to enroll farmers. Meetings were  
held yesterday in Prospect and  
Pleasant Grove communities. Con-  
ferences will be held at 10 o'clock  
this morning at Toone and at 1  
o'clock at Priorville. Hill Field and  
Oak Hill will be visited tomorrow  
and Friday the agents will present  
the program at Bethlehem and  
Union Springs.

All negro farmers in the Mid-  
South are eligible to compete for

the \$650 in cash awards, which will  
be given the farm families who  
make the best records in living at  
home, diversification, soil conserva-  
tion and home improvement.  
Enrollment blanks may be  
clipped from The Commercial Ap-  
peal or obtained from the county  
agent's office. The enrollment drive  
will close on April 1.

Rosedale, Miss. Democrat  
January 27, 1938

Negro Live-At-Home Competition

Negro farm families in this  
county are invited to participate  
in the \$650 Negro Live-At-Home  
Competition, which is also being  
sponsored by The Commercial Ap-  
peal, the Memphis Chamber of  
Commerce Committee and the Ex-  
tension Department.

A \$50 cash award will be given  
the Negro family making the best  
record in living-at-home, diversifi-  
cation and soil conservation and  
home improvement in this state.  
Second prize is \$25, third \$15 and  
fourth \$15.

The Negro family making the  
best record in the Mid-South will  
be awarded a \$250 cash award.  
Enrollment blanks are available  
at the County Agent's and Negro  
County Agent's office. The en-  
rollment drive will open next  
Tuesday.

each qualified county will receive  
The Commercial Appeal Certificate  
of Honor and an invitation to the  
Negro Live-at-Home luncheon to  
be held in Memphis.

Winners in the county will com-  
pete for the state prizes. First  
place winner will receive \$50, sec-  
ond, \$25, third, \$15, and fourth, \$10.  
The champion negro farm family  
in the Mid-South will receive the  
\$250 sweepstakes award.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal  
January 31, 1938

## Negro Live-At-Home Drive To Be Launched Tomorrow

By EUGENE RUTLAND

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Negro county agents and negro  
home demonstration agents and  
newspaper editors have received  
supplies of enrollment blanks and  
rules, and will begin their cam-  
paign tomorrow.

Officials of the extension serv-  
ices of the Mid-South have ap-  
proved plans for the competition  
and have urged the agents to stress  
the benefits the negro farmers will  
receive from growing their own

food and feed.  
Shelby County's enrollment drive,  
directed by R. A. Brown, agent at  
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Special recognition will be given  
the negro county and home agents  
who enroll the largest number of  
farm families in the competition.  
They will receive a trophy given by  
The Commercial Appeal.

All negro farm families in Ar-  
kansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and  
Missouri are eligible to compete.  
Enrollment blanks may be ob-  
tained at the county agent's office  
or clipped from today's issue of  
The Commercial Appeal.  
Winners of the competition in



Agriculture - 1938

Improvement of

## Negro Live-At-Home

Competition

Negro Live-At-Home Competition, 1938  
Care The Commercial Appeal,  
Memphis, Tenn.

I want to enter the 1938 Negro Live-At-Home Competition as a contestant for the \$650 in cash awards, The Commercial Appeal Trophies and The Commercial Appeal Certificate of Honor.

My name is.....

(PLEASE PRINT)

I get my mail at..... Route.....

(PLEASE PRINT)

(County)

(State)

Enter me as a

Landowner

Tenant-sharecropper

Check one thus (X)

The size of my farm is..... acres, with..... acres in cultivation.

This is the entry blank which every farm family must fill out properly and send to the Negro Live-At-Home Competition in care of The Commercial Appeal in order to be eligible for awards offered for following a program of diversified farming, living-at-home, soil conservation and home improvement.

The signing of this blank involves no obligation on the part of the farm family. However, it is necessary that those competing for the awards send a blank to the Negro Live-At-Home Competition.

## Negro Live-At-Home Drive

### To Be Launched Tomorrow

By EUGENE RUTLAND

Opening the enrollment drive in food and feed.

The \$650 Negro Live-At-Home Competition, directed by R. A. Brown, agent at Memphis, Tennessee, Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, was started last week with the opening community meeting at the Millington negro High School. Special recognition will be given to the negro county and home agents who enroll the largest number of farm families in the competition. They will receive a trophy given by the Commercial Appeal.

All negro farm families in Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Missouri are eligible to compete. Enrollment blanks may be obtained at the county agent's office and have urged the agents to stress the benefits the negro farmers will receive from growing their own

winners of the competition in each qualified county will receive

Live-at-Home Competition

The Commercial Appeal Certificate of Honor and an invitation to the Negro Live-at-Home luncheon to be held in Memphis.

Winners in the county will compete for the state prizes. First place winner will receive \$50, second, \$25, third, \$15, and fourth, \$10. The champion negro farm family in the Mid-South will receive the \$250 sweepstakes award.

## Negro Leaders Speed Interest In Live-at-Home Competition

Taking the lead in the Negro Live-at-Home Competition, Tennessee extension agents and newspaper editors yesterday began their drive to enroll negro farm families in the competition and to show how the contest will increase their net income.

J. H. White of Whitesville, editor of the Mid-South Progress, newly organized negro weekly, announced yesterday that the Progress will assist the Commercial Appeal in making the competition a success in West Tennessee and that his county are invited to participate in the competition. The Commercial Appeal will offer special prizes to counties in the \$650 Negro Live-At-Home awards.

"The Mid-South Progress is sponsoring a Live-at-Home Competition for negro farmers in co-operation with The Commercial Appeal and in taking this responsibility we feel that we can render a real service to our people," said Editor White.

"It is a sad fact that the Negro family making the best record in living-at-home, diversified farming, doing the same things and, as a whole, doing little toward establishing for themselves a substantial program of progressive farming. The competition offers a splendid opportunity and we hope that entries will begin rolling in right away," he said.

R. H. Brown, negro county agent of Shelby County, has begun his enrollment drive, and reported that a "large number of farm families had enrolled in Shelby County already" and that he expects to have 1000 entered before the enrollment drive closes.

Hardeman County negro extension agents and agricultural leaders in Madison County have begun their work also.

In Hardeman County, special meetings are being held this week to enroll farmers. Meetings were held yesterday in Prospect and Pleasant Grove communities. Conferences will be held at 10 o'clock this morning at Toone and at 1 o'clock at Priorville. Hill Field and Oak Hill will be visited tomorrow and Friday the agents will present the program at Bethlehem and Union Springs.

All negro farmers in the Mid-South are eligible to compete for

each qualified county will receive The Commercial Appeal Certificate of Honor and an invitation to the Negro Live-at-Home luncheon to be held in Memphis.

Winners in the county will compete for the state prizes. First place winner will receive \$50, second, \$25, third, \$15, and fourth, \$10. The champion negro farm family in the Mid-South will receive the \$250 sweepstakes award.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal  
January 31, 1938

## Negro Live-At-Home Drive To Be Launched Tomorrow

By EUGENE RUTLAND

Opening the enrollment drive in the \$650 Negro Live-at-Home Competition, negro agricultural leaders of Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Missouri will carry the message of living-at-home to more than 100 counties in the Mid-South this week.

Negro county agents and negro home demonstration agents and newspaper editors have received supplies of enrollment blanks and rules, and will begin their campaign tomorrow.

Officials of the extension services of the Mid-South have approved plans for the competition and have urged the agents to stress the benefits the negro farmers will receive from growing their own

food and feed. Shelby County's enrollment drive, directed by R. A. Brown, agent at Lucy, was started last week with the opening community meeting at the Millington negro High School.

Special recognition will be given the negro county and home agents who enroll the largest number of farm families in the competition. They will receive a trophy given by The Commercial Appeal.

All negro farm families in Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Missouri are eligible to compete. Enrollment blanks may be obtained at the county agent's office or clipped from today's issue of The Commercial Appeal.

Winners of the competition in



## Negro Leaders Speed Interest In Live-at-Home Competition

Yazoo, Miss. Sentinel  
March 22, 1938

### Negro Farmers Enter Contest

One Hundred Entered In Commercial Appeal's Live-At-Home Contest

Taking the lead in the Negro Live-at-Home Competition, Tennessee negro extension agents and newspaper editors yesterday began their drive to enroll negro farm families in the competition and to show them how the contest will increase their net income.

J. H. White of Whiteville, editor of the Mid-South Progress, newly organized negro weekly, announced yesterday that the Progress will assist The Commercial Appeal in making the competition a success in West Tennessee and that his paper will offer special county awards.

"The Mid-South Progress is sponsoring a Live-at-Home Competition for negro farmers in co-operation with The Commercial Appeal and in taking on this responsibility we feel that we can render a real service to our people," said Editor White.

"It is a sad fact that negro farmers have for generations gone along doing the same things and, as a whole, doing little toward establishing for themselves a substantial program of progressive farming. The competition offers a splendid opportunity and we hope that entries will begin rolling in right away," he said.

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All negro farmers in the Mid-South are eligible to compete for the \$650 in cash awards, which will be given the farm families who make the best records in living at home, diversification, soil conservation and home improvement.

Enrollment blanks may be clipped from The Commercial Appeal or obtained from the county agent's office. The enrollment drive will close on April 1.

## Haywood County Agents Win Negro Live at Home Awards

Memphis. Tenn. Commercial Appeal  
February 12, 1938

### Negro Live at Home Drive Gains Force In Mississippi

By EUGENE RUTLAND

Eager to show negro farm families how to earn a more comfortable living from the soil, Mississippi negro county and home demonstration agents have launched their Negro Live At Home competition in hopes of winning the enrollment trophy and the title of champion negro farmer in the Mid-South.

Armed with enrollment blanks and instruction sheets, negro agents in northern Mississippi counties are visiting farms to encourage the negro farmers to grow their own food and feed crops and to make their homes more comfortable. The agents reported that the farmers are eager to learn the new way to farm stability through living-at-home.

Working with H. C. Stone, county agent at Sardis, M. H. Jones, negro county agent, will stump Panola County to interest the farm families in the competition. In Lafayette County, Daisy Montgomery, negro home agent, will be aided by the Oxford Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Lafayette County is the first county in the Mid-South to have a local Negro Live-at-Home Competition. Four cash prizes and loving cup will be awarded to the winners in the contest.

Marshall County negro farmers will be urged to participate in the competition by Lessie Davis, negro home demonstration agent at Holly Springs. At Philadelphia in Neshoba County, Idell Jones, agent, will have charge of the competition. R. M. Makey and the home agent in Madison County have begun their enrollment drive and hope to have several hundred enrolled in the competition.

Florence Donnell, home agent at Winona, and Rosie B. Lipscomb, Winona, will direct the drive in Montgomery County.

With negro farmers in Carroll County showing increasing interest, a large enrollment is expected by Hanna Wood, and Will Ella Lloyd, negro extension agents at Carrollton.

Work of enrolling the farm families in Yazoo County has been started by Laura Powell, negro home agent and D. W. Lindsay, county agent.

An active campaign was started last week by John Wallace, negro

First place in The Commercial Appeal's Negro Live At Home Enrollment Contest went yesterday to R. E. Jefferies and Larue Cleaves, Haywood County, Tennessee, negro extension agents, who won the enrollment trophy with a total of 1227 families entered.

Haywood County agents nosed out R. H. Brown, Shelby County agent, who with the aid of an assistant enrolled 1183 families to take second place in the drive. Third place went to J. C. Williams, negro agent for Coahoma County, Mississippi, who enrolled 704 families.

Paced by Haywood County agents, Tennessee negro agents also enrolled the largest number of families. There were 3942 families enrolled in Tennessee, 3784 in Mississippi and 2404 in Arkansas.

A total of 10,146 negro families in the Mid-South have entered in the competition. They farm 588,850 acres of land.

One hundred and three counties in the Mid-South qualified for certificates of honor and cash awards by enrolling five or more families in the contest.

Mississippi leads with 48 qualified counties; Arkansas, 33, and Tennessee, 20.

Counties qualified in the Negro Live-At-Home Competition are:

ARKANSAS—Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Cleveland, Columbia, Conway, Crittenden, Cross, Drew, Dallas, Faulkner, Hempstead, Howard, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lee, Lincoln, Logan, Lonoke, Miller, Mississippi, Monroe, Nevada, Ouachita, Phillips, Poinsett, Pulaski, Sevier, St. Francis, Union, Woodruff, White.

MISSISSIPPI—Attala, Benton, Bolivar, Calhoun, Carroll, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Coahoma, Copiah, Covington, De Soto, Forrest, Grenada, Hancock, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Itawamba, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lafayette, Leflore, Lowndes, Madison, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Panola, Pearl River, Pike, Quitman, Rankin, Scott, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Union, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Winston and Yazoo.

TENNESSEE—Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Giles, Gibson, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Shelby, Tipton, Weakley, Montgomery, Davidson.

Yazoo City, Miss., March 21—One hundred Negro families in Yazoo County have entered the Commercial Appeal's 1938 Negro Live-At-Home Competition," says a statement issued by D. W. Lindsey, Negro Farm Agent, and Laura E. Powell, Negro Home Demonstration Agent. Counties in four states, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, will have farmers competing for prizes.

Awards are as follows: Grand Prize, The Commercial Appeal Trophy and \$250.00 given by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee to tenant or landowner making the best record in living at home, diversification, soil conservation, and home improvement. State Awards, The Commercial Appeal \$50 first prize, \$25 second prize, \$15 third prize, \$10 fourth prize. Each of these prizes will be awarded in Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. County Award, The Commercial Appeal certificate of honor, an invitation to the Negro Live-At-Home dinner in Memphis in December to the competition winner in each county. Extension Awards, Trophies to the county having the largest enrollment and county winning the Grand Prize.



# Agriculture - 1938 Improvement of

Adamsville, Tenn. Appeal  
February 4, 1938

**Negro Live-At-Home Competition** individual farms. The goals for it cost you not one cent to enroll should be organized. The date for re-  
Negro farm families in this each farm will be the acreage of Cost you not one cent to try for the receiving entries in this contest is closer  
county are invited to participate in soil-depleting crops and of soil-prizes, and at the end you have no April 1st.  
the \$650 Negro Live-At-Home Com- building crops and practices which pay to make win or lose. I shall These negroes in this county who are  
petition, which is also being spon- should be grown and carried out on be very glad to explain to all any interested should see S. C. Phillips  
sored by The Commercial Appeal the farm in 1938 in an effort to details you desire. Come on and Jeanes teacher for Marshall County o  
the Memphis Chamber of Com- stabilize production and income at get your application card. should write The Commercial Appea  
merce Agricultural Committee and fair levels. for entry blanks.

## NOTICE

Another important new feature Any colored family who would  
the Extension Department. is that a maximum payment which like to stay on a nice place and  
A \$50 cash award will be given is that a maximum payment which like to stay on a nice place and  
the Negro family making the best can be earned for each farm will prop. I have two places desiring  
record in living-at-home, diversifi- be calculated early in the crop good colored families to work this  
cation, and soil conservation and year. This means that the farm- year. If you are interested call b  
home improvement in this state. er will know the maximum pay- he office.

Second prize is \$25, third \$15 and fourth \$15. ment which can be earned under  
the program and what should be

The Negro family making the done to earn the payment in full. On Saturday Feb. 5 at 12:30, in  
best record in the Mid-South will The 1938 program is like the 1936 the Negro County Agent's office  
be awarded a \$250 cash award. and 1937 programs in that it can- which is just below Watson's Store  
Enrollment blanks are available at not be a production control pro- we will hold the Leaders Council  
the County Agent's office. The en- gram. However, the Agricultural monthly meeting. All leaders, club  
rollment drive will open next Conservation Program can be used officers and interested friends are  
Tuesday. not only to encourage soil con- urged to be present. Time 12:30

The 1938 Agricultural Conserva- sation, but also to encourage Saturday Feb. 5.  
tion Program represents a continu- adjustments in production which  
ation of the programs under which are required to maintain the eco-  
farmers have been co-operating nomic gains that have been made  
since 1933 in an effort to stabilize by farmers in recent years. The  
agricultural production and in program can be of value to grow-  
come. Farmers from every State ers in the achievement of a bal-  
have assisted at meetings in the ance between supply and demand  
field and at Washington in the at a reasonable level of prices only  
preparation of the program. if the majority of farmers partici-

The program represents a propa- and perform fully. Without  
gressive development from pre- extensive cooperation, burdensome  
vious programs, but the objective: surpluses of farm products may  
are the same as in 1936 and 1937 again accumulate if we have nor-  
These objectives are: mal weather conditions.

(1) To maintain adequate pro- duction of farm products in line  
with demand, so as to stabilize farm income at levels fair to farm-  
ers.

(2) To conserve and improve soil resources.

The 1938 program has several new features. It is hoped that these will make the program more effective in accomplishing the ob- jectives toward which it is directed.  
The most important new feature is the use of goals for soil-deplet- ing crops and a soil-building goal in a prize. I urge every colored  
These goals will be established for farm family to enroll in this drive

## NEGRO NEWS

Commercial Appeal's 1938 Negro  
Live-At-Home Competition

I have in my office all informa-

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## Live-at-Home Competition.

## Negro Live-at-Home Fights Hand to Mouth Farm Life

Smashing attacks against hand- to-mouth existence on farms in the  
Mid-South were launched last week by Negro extension agents as they  
enrolled 215 farm families in 1938 Negro Live-at-Home Competition.

Tennessee took an early lead in the enrollment drive as 125 families made plans to plant gardens and feed crops and to preserve a suf- ficient supply of vegetables to last them for the winter.

Shelby County's Negro agent, R. H. Brown, Lucy, nosed out E. R. Shockley, Negro agent at Bolivar, to take first place in the drive for the enrollment trophy. The trophy will be awarded to the extension agents who enroll the largest per- centage of farm families in their county.

Shelby has 56 families entered and Hardeman 55. They are the only counties in Tennessee qual- ified in both divisions of the com- petition.

Thirty farm families in Arkansas have enrolled and 59 in Mississippi. One family has entered in Missouri.

The farm families who have en- tered operate on 17,255 acres of land.

Mississippi and St. Francis Coun- ties in Arkansas have qualified with five or more entries.

Fifteen families have entered in Itawamba County, Miss., to become the first Mississippi county to qualify. DeSoto has also qualified.

Tennessee agents will make an effort to get all counties qualified this week.

Prizes totaling \$650 will be award- ed by The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Com- merce Agricultural Committee to the families in Arkansas, Missis- sippi, Missouri and Tennessee mak- ing the best record in the competi- tion.

## Leaders Council Meeting Sat- urday February 5

On Saturday Feb. 5 at 12:30, in the Negro County Agent's office which is just below Watson's Store we will hold the Leaders Council monthly meeting. All leaders, club officers and interested friends are urged to be present. Time 12:30 Saturday Feb. 5.

## Vaccinate Your Hogs and Pigs

This is the time of the year when every one is buying pigs and hogs for meat for next winter. It is very necessary to vaccinate your pigs and hogs against one deadly disease that attacks swine, that is Hog Cholera. You may never have a pig with it, yet if you do it usually costs loss of your pig or hog. Safe- guard your hogs by vaccination.

M. E. DEAN,

Negro Co. Farm Agent  
Holly Springs, Miss. Reporter  
February 3, 1938

## Of Interest To Colored Readers

## LIVE-AT-HOME PROGRAM

## SPONSORED FOR NEGROES

The Memphis Commercial Appeal, the South's greatest daily newspaper, is sponsoring a Live-at-Home movement for the negroes of the states of Mis- sissippi, Tennessee and Arkansas. They propose to distribute in prizes \$650.00. The negro teachers of Marshall County are urged to organize the school chil- dren and their parents in clubs to en- list in the contest for these prizes.

Pig clubs, all-year round garden clubs, corn clubs and pantry clubs



# Negro Live At Home Contest Coahoma County Takes Lead

## Has More Than 800 Entries In Negro Live-at-Home Drive

By EUGENE RUTLAND

Spreading on the wings of neighborly praise, news of the \$650 Negro Live at Home Competition has reached more than 800 Mid-South negro farm families who have begun plans to make their farms produce their own food and feed this year.

Every mail brings additional entries in the competition, revealing that all negro agents in the Mid-South are striving to bring the competition to the attention of farm families in Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Missouri.

Negro school teachers and negro community leaders who realize that the negro farmer must grow his own food and feed if he is to make a success of farming, are joining the live-at-home through as ways of the competition spreads over the Mid-South.

Eager to improve their farming conditions, negro farmers are following suggestions of negro agricultural agents and enrolling in the contest, which will award prizes totaling \$650 to farmers making the best record in living at home.

Many negro farmers have requested additional blanks so they may enroll their neighbors in the competition. Each day the demand for more enrollment blanks grows.

As the enrollment drive entered the fourth week, a nip-and-tuck fight for the enrollment trophy developed between E. R. Shockley of Hardeman County and R. H. Brown, negro agent for Shelby County.

Nosed out last week by Shockley, Agent Brown yesterday enrolled 141 more farm families to bring the total enrollment in Shelby County to 203 and to give him a lead of 75 over the Hardeman County negro agent.

Determined to keep the lead in the enrollment drive, Agent Brown said yesterday he will hold Live at Home rallies at Woodstock today; Collierville, tomorrow; Eads, on March 4; Bartlett, March 9; Barrett Chapel, March 10, and Jeeter on March 11.

Crittenden County, Ark., remained in third place when seven more families were enrolled by Henry W. Espy, negro agent, who reported that at least 50 more families will be enrolled, and that the farmers are much interested in the competition.

Mabel R. Clopton, negro home agent in Noxubee County, Miss., reported a growing interest in the competition and requested additional enrollment blanks. Lloyd G. Stanfield, of Immanuel Industrial School, Almyra, Ark., sent in nine entries and promised more.

Twenty-four counties in the Mid-South have qualified in the compe-

tion, with five or more entries. Five must be enrolled from a county before that county will be eligible for state prizes. The enrollment drive will close on April 1.

Mississippi has the largest number of qualified counties with 11; Tennessee, second with seven, and Arkansas has six.

Qualified Mississippi counties are Attala, Coahoma, Copiah, De Soto, Holmes, Itawamba, Marshall, Panola, Quitman, Tunica and Washington.

Chester, Fayette, Hardeman, Haywood, Madison, Shelby and Weakley have qualified in Tennessee and Arkansas, Crittenden, Lafayette, Mississippi, Phillips and St. Francis in Arkansas.

In Mississippi, Coahoma County negro agents, conducting an enrollment campaign in the Negro Live-At-Home Competition, enlisted 335 farm families in the \$650 farm contest last week to take the lead in the race for the enrollment trophy. The enrollment in the Mid-South is 1780.

Julius A. Daugherty, negro county agent, and Bartlett Childress, home agent, held their enrollment drive last week in 12 communities in Coahoma County, stressing the need of food and feed production. Approximately 1900 negro farmers attended the meetings.

Shelby County, Tenn., leader in the enrollment drive and Hardeman County, Tenn., contender and first place holder during the first month of the drive, dropped to second and fourth place, respectively.

R. H. Brown, Shelby County agent, increased the enrollment to 319, or 16 below the pace-setting agents from Coahoma County.

E. R. Shockley, negro agent in Bolivar in Hardeman County, Tenn., sent his total enrollment 127 last week and ordered 500 more enrollment blanks as he made plans to make a countywide enrollment tour.

Haywood County agents hold the third place now with a total enrollment of 216. Tipton County, Tenn., has 135 and Attala County, Miss., has 104 enrolled. Phillips County, Ark., has 84 families entered and Mississippi County, Ark., 81.

Mississippi took the lead in the enrollment drive with a total of 88 families entered; Tennessee, with 570, is second and Arkansas, with 320, is third.

## Shelby County Negro Agent Leads In Enrollment Drive

By EUGENE RUTLAND

Shelby County negro agricultural agent, R. H. Brown, who has been preaching live-at-home to his negro families for several years, took a large lead in the race for the enrollment trophy in the \$650 Negro Live At Home Competition last week.

Enrolling more than 140 families, Agent Brown sent the total for Shelby County to 203, to take a lead of 110 over Coahoma County, Miss., which failed to increase its entry list last week.

Led by Agent Brown, other negro agents in Hardeman, Haywood and Tipton Counties enrolled approximately 700 families last week, to place the Volunteer State slightly ahead in the enrollment drive. So far 1265 families have enrolled in the competition in Tennessee.

Mississippi agents enrolled more

By EUGENE RUTLAND  
Memphis Commercial Appeal  
November 20, 1933

## 'Uncle Bill' Sets An Example For Arkansas Negro Farmers, Winning Live-at-Home Award

### The Son of Slave Parents, He Is Champion Over 3000 In His State—Bought Land in 1904 and Paid It Out Within Three Years

At the end of the Civil War a five-year-old negro boy and his parents gave thanks for their freedom.

Today the same negro, his hair white with the toil of 78 years is the first negro Live-At-Home champion of Arkansas and a glowing example of success for the members of his race to follow.

He is "Uncle Bill" Smith of Marianna, Ark., who defeated more than 3000 negro farm families for the right to represent Arkansas in the first annual negro Live-At-Home Sweepstakes award of \$250. "Uncle Bill" and Ida Netterville of Wilson in Mississippi County won \$10 for placing fourth.

All of the finalists in the negro Live-At-Home Competition made excellent records, showing that negro farmers who followed the live-at-home program of the Extension Department can get more than a meager living from the soil.

Blazing a trail for young farmers to follow, "Uncle Bill" Smith believes that the members of his race should return to the farm and that they should be shown that production of food and feed are the most essential items to be raised on the farm.

"My people must be made to grow their food and feed," said Uncle Bill. "They won't do it unless you get behind them. I just hope they'll learn some day."

### Began Farming In 1884

"I started farming in 1884 and made two crops," he said. "And the first thing I bought was a mule and some farming equipment. I started buying this 110-acre farm back in 1904 and finished paying for it in 1907 and have been living here for 34 years. I bought my farm by making payments."

"Uncle Bill" grows cotton, live-stock, corn, peas, potatoes, vegetables, meat and poultry, which brought him a gross income of \$1314.14. During the year his family has eaten food valued at \$247.96 and has food stored worth \$588.60. He has spent only \$38.50 for food not grown on the farm.

"We raise our own food and have not bought any feed for the stock since the 1930 drouth. I usually have some feed to sell."

"I made a few repairs on the house and now I'm making plans to build a new house in 1938. I have been a church officer since 1876;

The Live-At-Home Competition was appointed school director by the county judge in 1900 and has been secretary of the board for 15 years. Four children have high school training and three college. One daughter is a pharmacist and taken the drudgery out of a good two are teachers and the other is many things we have been doing, an undertaker.



## AGRICULTURE- 1938 IMPROVEMENT OF

Bolivar, Tenn., Bulletin  
December 9, 1938

### Hardeman County Negro Farm Is State Live-At- Home Winner

A 45-year-old negro farmer from Hardeman County, Tennessee, who has sent three of his six children to college and who will become a landowner next year, is the 1938 Live-At-Home champion of Tennessee.

He is Robert Lambert, Jr., who farms a 175-acre farm near Whiteville, Tennessee, on Highway 64. Robert and his wife, Lucilla, defeated approximately 4000 negro farm families in West Tennessee to win the coveted award.

He will receive the state award of \$50 and will compete with winners in Arkansas and Mississippi for the Mid-South award of \$250, which is given by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, and the trophy given by The Commercial Appeal.

E. R. Shockley, negro county agent of Hardeman County, and the negro home demonstration agent, Emma Person, were praised highly by the Tennessee Live-At-Home Judging Committee for their efforts in the contest.

MEMPHIS, TENN., COMM'L APPEAL  
DEC. 6, 1938 D12

### Live At Home Champions To Be Selected Tomorrow

Interest of more than 10,000 negro farm families in the MidSouth will center on Memphis tomorrow as the first annual Negro Live At Home champions are selected at the Manassas High School at Firestone and Manassas.

Approximately 250 negro leaders, farmers and their wives, county agents and others are expected to take part in the first demonstration in the South which shows the progress that the negro families are making today.

Prizes totaling \$550 will be awarded to the winners of the competition, which stresses living at home, diversification, soil conservation and home improvement and management.

Holding the center of attention will be A. W. Curtis Jr., assistant director of agricultural research at Tuskegee Institute, who will speak and the negro families who are competing for the \$250 sweepstakes championship, given by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee and the sweepstakes trophy given by The Commercial Appeal.

Representing Mississippi in the sweepstakes is Carter Thompson of Oxford, Miss., in Lafayette County. Arkansas will be represented by William R. Smith of Marianna in Lee County, and Robert Lamberth Jr., of Whiteville in Hardeman County will compete from Tennessee.

Activities will begin at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning at Manassas School with a program of music presented by the Manassas High School Glee Club. Then will come the address of Professor Curtis, the luncheon and presentation of awards and a theater party at the Daisy Theater on Beale will bring the program to a close.

Professor J. A. Hayes, principal of Manassas High School, said last night that the 2200 negro students have become so enthusiastic over the Live At Home Competition that they are making plans to give livestock awards to the first, second and third place winners in the contest in 1939.

### NEGRO FARMER WINS LIVE-AT-HOME CONTEST

Carter B. Thompson Becomes  
Mississippi Champion

A 61-year-old negro farmer whose father was a slave, is the first negro Live-at-Home champion of Mississippi.

He is Carter B. Thompson and owns a 160-acre hill farm eight miles west of Oxford on the Sardis road.

Carter and his 51-year-old wife, Beulah, and their six children have set a brilliant example of how negro farm families can win security from their farm and how farmers should first produce their food and feed.

Carter and his wife will represent Mississippi in the MidSouth contest for the \$250 sweepstakes award offered by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee and The Commercial Appeal trophy. They will receive a \$50 award for winning first place in the state.

Second place in the competition went to Sam and Pearl Cook of Pike County. They will receive a cash award of \$25. Third place went to Daniel and Madora McKinney of Sunflower County, who have made many substantial contributions to the community in which they live. They will receive an award of \$15, while the \$10 fourth place award goes to Charlie and Irene Horton of Hinds County.

Negro farmers winning honorable mention are Elijah and Mary Smith of Warren County and Mack and Lula Humphrey of Washington County.

Winners in the county contests will be honored at the negro Live-at-Home luncheon at Manassas Negro High School Wednesday morning, Dec. 7.

State winners in Arkansas will be selected this week.

## LIVE-At-Home COMPETITION

Memphis Tenn. Commercial Appeal  
November 10, 1938

### FOUR NEGRO WINNERS GET FARMING PRAISE

Their Live-at-Home Records  
Are Lauded by Judges

### SYMBOLIC OF PROGRESS

'These Negro Farm Families  
Are Examples of What Negroes Can Do,' Chairman Of  
Judging Committee Says

By EUGENE RUTLAND  
Staff Correspondent

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 9.—Down in Dixie where cotton is king, four negro live-at-home champions have shackled this erstwhile tryant of the soil and won success and praise from agricultural leaders by following a program of diversified farming and living at home.

Symbolic of the progress that the negro farmers of the South are making, the cotton winners of Pike, Warren, Hinds and Sunflower Counties presented records that won the praise of the Mississippi State Judging Committee today.

#### Example for Negroes

"These negro farm families are examples of what the negro farmers can do," said L. I. Jones, state agronomist and chairman of the the Judging Committee. "All of them were tenants and each has earned his land the hard way—from sharecropping to tenancy and then landlordship."

Judges found tidy well-kept homes at the farms of the negro county winners. Their barns were filled to overflowing with corn and hay and the pantries and smokehouse showed the part that the negro farm wives have played in winning the county championships.

Down in Pike County on a gravel road three miles southeast of Magnolia, Sam and Pearl Cook have a 160-acre farm, with 90 acres in cultivation. Sam was busy painting his home when the committee called and Pearl, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, was away teaching school.

#### Began as Sharecropper

Sam and Pearl were married back in 1913 and began farming as sharecroppers. They soon learned

the value of living at home and were able to buy a farm. Sam has more than 10 sources of income, proving that he is a believer in diversified farming. His income from crops this year was \$2507 with expenses of \$680, giving him a net profit of \$1926, in addition to food and feed valued at \$1560.85.

Sam and Pearl have a modern home and are planning further improvements. All his cultivated land is terraced and he takes good care of his soil by planting cover crops. He said the competition has created a greater desire and appreciation for farm life and what the Government is doing to help the farmer.

Charlie and Irene Horton and their two children have a modern farm home 14 miles south of Jackson and during the year they have made a profit of more than \$2300. Charlie pointed out that the competition has taught him much about keeping record books and the art of living at home.

#### 12 Sources of Income

Charlie and Irene have used native shrubbery in beautifying their home. They have 12 sources of income and made a profit of \$650 alone from livestock. They have two children who attend school just across the road.

Elijah J. Smith and his wife, Mary of Redwood, Miss., have eight sources of income that brought \$2201.13 this year. They have a sufficient supply of food and feed and have purchased an electric refrigerator. Electricity has been installed in their farm home. They have four children and have made a net profit of \$1775.60 during the year.

One of the outstanding examples of negro leadership is seen in the record made by Daniel and Madora McKinney, winners in Sunflower County.

#### Own 240 Acres

Daniel and Mary began farming back in 1895 as sharecroppers. They have progressed each year until now they own 240 acres of good land in the Delta.

"What I have done and am doing in the county can be done by any other negro who will put forth the same energy and practice the same economy," Daniel said. Daniel has four four-room tenant houses on his farm, a school and a church, which he built for the enjoyment of his tenants and the residents of his community. The school was operated by him until it became a county operated school. He follows a live-at-home program and urges his tenants to do the same.

His net profit for the year will be about \$2670.



Agriculture - 1938

Louisiana

Improvement of

# INVENTION MAY HIT THOUSANDS IN SOUTHLAND

thirds of the black population in the Southland depend directly or indirectly on some form of farm activities and labor. A substantially large number is engaged in cotton-picking and sugar cane cutting

*by hand*  
Test Proves Sugar Cane  
Device Can Do Work  
Of Sixty Men

*10-1-38*  
POINTE COUPEE PARISH, La., Sept. 30—A sugar cane harvester, capable of doing the work of 60 cane-cutting field hands, was tried out this week on the Ramsey plantation.

*Ramsey*  
The harvester, operated by three men, cut, topped, stripped and bunched the sugar cane at the rate of one ton to every three to four minutes. It piled the cane in compact piles ready to be hauled to the sugar mill. And, at the end of each row it piled the nubbins, fine plantation live stock feed.

Built on a four-wheeled tractor, this harvester was invented by a former United States Navy officer, Allan Ramsey Wurtele who owns and operates Ramsey plantation on the banks of False river.

## May Displace Thousands

It is estimated that 1000 such machines as the Wurtele can harvester could do the work of 60,000 laborers. The crop estimates this autumn are for 6,908,000 tons of sugar cane in Louisiana, with between 50,000 and 60,000 laborers in the cane fields. It is thought by sugar men that the money value of the crop may well be in the neighborhood of \$20,000,000.

Three months ago a cotton-picking machine was invented. According to agricultural technical experts this machine will displace upwards of 100,000 cotton-pickers. Heretofore the Southern black men had had no competition in this field which was conceded to be their economic domain.

The mechanization of both the sugar and cotton industries through the introduction of these machines will affect the economic status of the "Negro" to the point of complete elimination. More than two-



## Providence Plantation Sold To Delta Co-operative Farms

Special to The Commercial Appeal

LEXINGTON, Miss., Feb. 5.—Purchase of the historic Providence Plantation near here by the Delta Co-operative Farms of Rochdale was announced today by T. C. Parrish of Mileston, former owner.

The property, including 2880 acres, 15 tenant houses, a general store and cotton gin, will probably be operated under a tenants' co-operative plan. The plantation was formerly owned by the late John D. Gwyn of Lexington.

Sherwood Eddy, author and founder of the Rochdale co-operative experiment, has been named president of the additional enterprise, Mr. Parrish said. Under direction of Sam Franklin, rehabilitation has begun.

"New owners plan to operate the Providence farm along lines similar to Rochdale Farms of England, which is a co-operative system," Mr. Parrish added. "One of the oldest and most fertile plantations of the county, the project should prove highly productive with adequate funds."

For the past year Providence has been farmed by smaller resettling farmers. Local planters believe this arrangement focused attention of the Delta Company on the area.

Mr. Franklin, a trustee for Delta Co-Operative Farms, Inc., today said several families already have been installed on the Providence farm and the co-operative general store has been organized. Arthur Landes is manager of the store and Wilbur Moody is his helper. Luther Baker has been named general foreman.

Money derived from the farms is used to purchase more land and enlarge the co-operative system, Mr. Franklin said. The trustees cannot profit in any way from earnings of the land.

Trustees are Reinhold Nichols, professor of philosophy in Union Theological Seminary, New York who has recently been invited to give the Gifford Lectures in Scotland; Sherwood Eddy, former missionary to India; William Scarlett, bishop of Missouri, and Sam H. Franklin Jr., the director of the farm, who was a missionary in Japan. Dr. William Amberson, professor of physiology in the University of Maryland, and John Rust, inventor of the cotton picker, who lives in Memphis.

The Delta Co-Operative Farms,

Inc., has its own community church a resident trained nurse, a negro school and a general program of education and recreation. It will have a resident doctor in a short time. It is planned to carry on religious, education and medical work on Providence in the same way.

### Eddy Learns A Lesson

Over in Mississippi, Dr. Sherwood Eddy's scheme for the rehabilitation of the Southern sharecropper—the Delta Cooperative Farm at Rochdale—faces a crisis during the coming year, its third and its hardest. It faces the task of "producing more and spending less."

Started in March, 1936, by the idealistic Dr. Eddy, the scheme has been to build up the tenant on a cooperative basis, and it had an auspicious beginning. There was plenty of money and all kinds of publicity; the crop year of 1936 was one of the best in the last two decades from the standpoint of the Southern farmer, and the co-operative undertaking netted an operating profit. Came 1937, the second year, and the group didn't fare so well. The drop in the income from cotton despite the bumper crop, left the group with some "operating loss."

When Dr. Eddy announced his scheme—a noble and praiseworthy scheme!—there was just a hint of smugness in the air, no doubt unintentional. We were made to feel that here was a man of real intelligence, real energy, real unselfishness, and real foresight, like no one in the South seemed to possess. Here was a man who could solve our problems—the problems which had vexed us for so many decades—within a year or two. Here was a man who would have no trouble in telling the people of the South how to run their plantations, and how to get the sharecroppers out of the misery which has been theirs for so many years.

But things haven't worked out like Dr. Eddy expected them to work out, and there are thousands of planters here in Alabama, as well as over in Mississippi, who could have told Dr. Eddy even before he started, about the difficulty of "producing more and spending less."

For a span of years which surpasses the memory of even the oldest of our people, the Southern planter has been trying to do just this thing which has confronted Dr. Eddy suddenly. The Southern planter has been trying for decades to produce more and spend less, but it looks as though the twain will never meet. It's not unlike one of those mechanical rabbits in the dog races. Those who manipulate the rabbit will never let the dogs catch it. Those who manipulate the government of this country (the tariff and the freight rates, in this instance) will never let the things which the South sells catch up with the things which the South buys. When we produce more, we spend still more, and it hasn't been very

satisfactory. It accounts in a large measure for the poverty of the South, and this, more than any other thing, accounts for the amazing increase in sharecropping and tenant farming which the South has seen in the last half century. Those who are unable to buck the tide any longer fall back on someone who is a bit stronger—and we have another landless farmer.

What's more, a new theory of agricultural prosperity has arisen in this country in the last few years which doesn't even have "producing more and spending less" as its goal, and Dr. Eddy has this, too, to cope with. It is the economy of scarcity, and the economy which calls for higher wages in the industrial East and a lower production in the agricultural South. How does Dr. Eddy now expect to produce more and spend less when the national government—which also swears allegiance to the sharecropper—has issued an edict for us to spend more and produce less? It seems a little crazy, but who and what isn't crazy?

### Sweet Potato Culture

Laurel, Mississippi, has a flourishing new starch factory for converting sweet potatoes into starch. The old objection that potato starch was yellow has been overcome through a bleaching process recently discovered and found effective. Now the potato starch ranks among the best, so says an article in Scientific American. And prediction is made that manufacturing plants will be established all through the potato-growing regions, as the demand for potato starch is great.

It is the only starch that is inoffensive in taste; and therefore preferred by the Bureau of Engraving, where stamps, envelopes and stickers must be prepared for use by the millions of citizens. At present the imported cassava starch is used; also a billion pounds has been made from corn, wheat and rice. White potatoes have been used by industry as the only available root starch until the potato mill was built in Mississippi.

Starch is used in adhesives, food products, textiles, paper, soap, explosives, veneers, toys, salt, yeast, baking powder, cosmetics, alcohol and batteries. Many uses require root starch, and the importations of cassava have amounted to three hundred million pounds a year. The potato, since bleaching has been found effective, can supply every requirement.

The Mississippi plant intended at first to use culls from the potato fields but the demand was so great it began to call for any and all sizes, taking the run of the field.

Georgia soils produce sweet potatoes as readily as they produce peanuts. They have led the world in peanut production, and they can make a similar record in growing sweet potatoes. Two hundred and fifty bushels to

the acre is not considered a big figure for the average; since five hundred bushels have been reported by individual farmers, and at Lyons one grower claimed to have grown from the same vines two crops in one year, totaling one thousand bushels.

A few years ago, drying houses were established on many farms, the purpose being to make the potatoes suitable for shipping to distant markets. But this was not as successful as had been hoped. People accustomed to the luscious sweetness of the fresh potatoes did not care for the dried. Canning has been tried, but for some reason that has not been a big success, perhaps because the distant markets were not acquainted with the joy of eating sweet potatoes or because the process of canning destroyed something in the taste.

As hog feed, potatoes are said to rank with peanuts, oats, corn and beans. Banked in straw and covered with dirt, they provide good family food throughout the Southern winters, and are ready for the seed bed in the spring. Some farmers in Bibb county depend upon potatoes as the principal money crop, and say they improve the land.

### JOB FOR DR. EDDY

He Should Go North And Find Conditions to Correct

To The Commercial Appeal:

Several times lately we have read news items telling us of the acute condition of over 100,000 persons in Cleveland, Ohio, needing Government help to keep the wolf from the door. Bear in mind that Cleveland is a great industrial center, not a "share-cropper center."

Let it be remembered, too, that such conditions came about in the last "five years," just like the sharecropper condition came about in the last five years.

It would be well to take those fellows who have been agitating the sharecropper condition (from the North and East), and lead them all over Cleveland, and show them worse conditions of near starvation and squalor than may be found among any sharecroppers, and that in a large, beautiful, very wealthy city. Well, we Southerners are not going to Cleveland and do any agitating, for we are not Communists, and never will be, for Communism is back of the agitating over our sharecropper plight.

If Dr. Eddy would pull out of

Mississippi just now, and establish something in Cleveland and other Northern and Eastern cities, he'd be doing something more appropriate for a Northerner or Easterner to do in alleviating the down-trodden folks of the country. All those who shoot at the South, shoot crooked, never hit anything, the boomerang slaps back with a terrible force. Please remember, there is no city in the South as bad off as Cleveland, and Cleveland millionaires are as thick as hair on a dog's back. The "sharecroppers" "auter" go up there and look around and see how kindly they (the sharecroppers) are, compared with a great millionaire center of the country.

About face, you sharecroppers! You are about as well off as your Northern or Eastern cousin.

JOSEPH CINEGARER.  
Shaw, Miss.



# U. S. Check To Raise Farmer From Tenant To Landowner

NEW ALBANY, MISS., June 11.—(AP)—L. Brook Epting, 35-year-old tenant farmer, will receive a Government check for \$2,750 here next Friday which will mark an advance in his economic status from tenancy to landowner.

Epting, hard working husband and native of Union County, will become the first farm tenant in Mississippi to achieve farm ownership under terms of the Bankhead-Jones tenant purchase measure. A brief presentation ceremony will be held on the 62-acre tract 14 miles southeast of here which Epting will acquire with his loan.

His check will be handed him by T. Roy Reid, Little Rock, Ark., regional director of the Farm Security Administration, with Gov. Hugh White scheduled for the presentation speech.

## Epting's Substantial Folk

It will be an epochal event for Epting, his attractive wife and their curly-headed, 5-year-old daughter, Virginia. Since their marriage in 1927, the Eptings have scaled the economic ladder gradually, accumulating essential farm equipment and realizing a better standard of living through a carefully managed "live-at-home" farm and home management practice.

Yet, like many other tenants in the South, they have never been able to accumulate enough money to bridge the final gap to farm ownership.

Epting, born within four miles of his new farm, is a high school graduate. His wife, a native of Blue Mountain, Miss., completed three years of work at Blue Mountain College and taught school for a time.

The young farmer plans to spend 1,450 of his loan for the purchase of the farm, practically all of which is in cultivation. The remainder will be spent for construction of a modest four-room house, barn, poultry and smoke house.

## 40 Years To Repay Loan

Terms of the Bankhead-Jones act will give Epting as long as 40 years to repay the loan with three per cent interest. Annual amortization payments will average about \$111 plus \$60 in taxes and insurance as compared with the approximately \$300 in rent he paid last year for the 57 acres he now farms.

The amortization payments will vary with his annual crop revenue determined by a scale based on normal yield and prices for his principal crops.

Last year Epting made 11 bales of cotton and 525 bushels of corn. Dairy products and livestock sales added \$520 to his income.

He will move to his new farm, sometime after the end of the crop year, free of debt and with assets valued at \$730, including two mules, four dairy cattle, farming tools, a few hogs and chickens.

Similar loans to approximately 196 selected farm tenants in 28 Mississippi Counties will be made between now and Fall from the \$640,000 fund allotted the State under the measure.

## NEGRO FARMER AMBITIOUS

### Cotton Tenant Gets 500-Pound Bale to Acre—Has Other Jobs

GREENVILLE, Miss. (AP).—Walter Jones, a Negro farmer, is proving that a cotton tenant farmer's life isn't necessarily one of destitution.

Jones share-crops forty acres on the D. E. Keil plantation and says he gets a 500-pound bale of cotton to the acre, while tenants near by make 200 pounds or less. He also finds time to plant a garden, work in a sawmill and run a blacksmith shop.

Recently he invented a machine to thin out cotton plants in the row which he says is better than any other such machine now on the market.



## NEGRO AGRICULTURE TEACHERS IN VISIT TO DELTA STATION

[Special to The Democrat-Times]  
Stoneville, Aug. 30.—Thirty negro vocational agriculture teachers from all over the Delta under the supervision of R. K. Fisackerly, director of vocational agriculture for Mississippi, are studying the latest developments in horticulture, livestock, and seed crops in an all day program at the Delta Experiment Station today.

These teachers conduct classes in the negro high schools throughout the Delta and instruct adult courses at night for those who desire to become more scientific farmers. Each is a graduate of an agricultural college.

The extension work carried on through vocational agricultural in the state is born by local counties, the state and the federal government, in a cooperative program.

At this time there are 27 full-time teachers in the Delta. Part of the activities of these teachers is the supervision of an organization for the younger student farmers, called the New Farmers of the America.

## Cotton Tenant Produces 500 Pounds to Acre

GREENVILLE, Miss., Nov. 17—Walter Jones, tenant farmer, is living proof that ambition and hard work will cure the economic ills of many of the South's destitute rural people.

Jones sharecrops 40 acres on the D. E. Keil plantation and says he gets a 500 pound bale of cotton to the acre while tenants nearby make 200 pounds or less. He also finds time to plant a garden, work in a sawmill and run a blacksmith shop.

Recently he invented a machine to thin out cotton plants in the row which he says is better than any other such machine now on the market.

## This Cotton Tenant Gets 500 pounds to Acre; Has Other Jobs

GREENVILLE, Miss.—(ANP)—Walter Jones, tenant farmer, is living proof that ambition and hard work will cure the economic ills of many of the South's destitute rural people.

Jones sharecrops 40 acres on the D. E. Keil plantation and says he gets a 500 pound bale of cotton to the acre while tenants nearby make 200 pounds or less. He also finds time to plant a garden, work in a sawmill and run a blacksmith shop.

Recently he invented a machine to thin out cotton plants in the row which he says is better than any other such machine now on the market.

## 4 Colored Farmers Win Mississippi Championships

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 24—(ANP)—Four colored farmers, who with their wives have stopped raising cotton and gone in for diversified farming, were adjudged county winners last Wednesday by the Mississippi State Judging committee.

L. I. Jones, state agronomist and chairman of the judging committee, in making the awards, stated, "These negro farm families are examples of what Negro farmers can do. All of them were tenants and each has earned his land the hard way — from sharecropping to tenancy and then landlordship."

The farmers and their wives who won the awards were Samuel Cook and wife, Pearl of Pike county, farming 160 acres, with crop income of \$2,507; Charles Horton and wife, Irene, 14 miles south of Jackson, Miss., profit for year, \$2,300; Elijah J. Smith and wife, Mary of Redwood, net profit for year, \$1,775, and Daniel McKinney and wife, Madora, in Sunflower county, own 240 acres of good ground.

## Dixie Farmer Wins Place in State Contest

MEMPHIS, Nov. 24 — (ANP) — Carter B. Thompson, 61-year-old owner of a 160-acre farm, eight miles west of Oxford, last week became the first colored

live-at-home champion farmer of Mississippi. Carter, his 451-year-old wife Mrs. Beulah Thompson, and their six children have set an example of how farm families can win security from their land.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter will represent Mississippi in the 40th south contest for the \$250 statestakes award offered by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural committee and the Commercial Appeal trophy. They also receive an award of \$50 for winning first place in Mississippi.

## Tenant Farmers In Mississippi Gets 500 Pounds To Acre

Greenville, Miss., Nov. 11—(ANP) Walter Jones, tenant farmer, is living proof that ambition and hard work will cure the economic ills of many of the South's destitute rural people.

Jones sharecrops 40 acres on the D. E. Keil plantation and says he gets a 500 pound bale of cotton to the acre while tenants nearby make 200 pounds or less. He also finds time to plant a garden, work in a sawmill and run a blacksmith shop.

Recently he invented a machine to thin out cotton plants in the row which he says is better than any other such machine now on the market.



Agriculture - 1938

Improvement of

# New Breed Of Hog Perfected On Lincoln University Farm

## Missouri School Instructor Achieves New Breed Of Hogs Polki Dots, If You Please!

JEFFERSON, Mo.—Success in the deriving of an entirely new breed of hog is claimed here by Arthur Lee Hammons, instructor in the department of agriculture, Lincoln University (Mo.) with the birth yesterday of a litter of thirteen pigs every one of which bears one or more of the spots that the breeder has been trying to perfect.

For five years Mr. Hammons has been experimenting with a variety of hog-breeds in an effort so to blend these breeds as to produce one breed bearing selected characteristics of the different types. His has been an effort to stabilize color and improve feeding habits over those of existing hogs.

### TIRING EXPERIENCE

To do this Mr. Hammons faced the tugging and discouraging experience of generations of hog-breeders such experience as is stated in the famous principle of Gregor J. Mendel, nineteenth century scientist, who showed that "height, color and other characters depend on the presence of determining factors, behaving as units, and that the second and later generation of cross-breeds exhibit these characters in all possible combinations, each combination in a definite proportion of individuals."

Mendel's Law established the expectation that in any effort to blend breeds some individuals, often a definite proportion, say one out of every four, if not of the second generation always of the third generation, will "revert" and come forth with exact characteristics of one of its forebears.

### 13 "POLKI-DOTS"

The Lincoln University agriculturist has so far succeeded in negating this law with his new-born litter of 13 "polki-dots," as he has chosen to call them. Every one of this litter, not just an expected proportion, has the dots. Through experience with earlier individuals

of this breed, Mr. Hammons finds they have better feeding qualities than all other breeds, maturing to market size 180-220 lbs. in five and a half months. Prolificacy equals that of all breeds, he finds, having had twelve to thirteen pigs in each litter for girls with second bearings.

This new breed is by no means perfect, according to Mr. Hammons but considering the short duration of the experiment over a period of five years, it marks unexcelled progress in the field of hog-production and breeding. The breeder is satisfied with the characteristic feeding qualities of the "polki-dots" but is not so self assured as to have no fear of the Mendelian theory for several generations to come.

Mr. Hammons expects to put the new litter and the producing sow born five years ago, on exhibition at the American Royal Stock Show in Kansas City, October 21. and at the New York World's Fair, in 1939.

Returning to the American Royal show will be the Lincoln University prize nine-year-old boar, possibly the oldest living boar, certainly the most outstanding, in this section. This boar won the 1930 blue ribbon at the Kansas City show and will return as a candidate for top honors in the oldest hed boar class. These unusual animals also will be on exhibition at the Bunceton County (Mo.) Negro Fair, Oct. 16.

On this knowledge Hammons bases the success of his unusual experiment.

JEFFERSON-CITY, MO.—It might not merit "Hall of Fame" recognition, but Arthur Lee Hammons' most recent achievement is, at least, a record of some magnitude.

The perfection of a new breed of hogs—that's Hammons' meritorious achievement, and he's proud of it.

The new breed consists of a litter of 13 "polki-dot" pigs, every one of which bears one or more spots that Hammons has been trying to perfect.

For five years Hammons, an instructor in the department of agriculture at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Mo., experimented with a variety of hog-breeds in an effort to blend these breeds so as to produce one breed bearing selected characteristics of different types.

His was an effort to stabilize color and improve feeding habits over those of existing hogs.

To perfect this experiment Hammons faced the discouraging experiences of generations of hog-breeders. But he knew, from years of research, that in any effort to blend breeds some individuals, often a definite proportion, say one out of every four, if not the second of every generation always of the third generation, will "revert" and come forth with exact characteristics of one of its forebears.

On this knowledge Hammons bases the success of his unusual experiment.

Though he considered his new breed by no means perfect, Hammons had enough confidence in his scientific ability to put the new litter and the producing sow on exhibition at the American Royal Stock Show in Kansas City, Mo., October 21. As a consequence, the litter and sow won blue ribbons.

He now expects to exhibit his charges at the New York World Fair, in 1939.

Whenever he is interrogated on his achievement Hammons expresses the belief that his litter of 13 "polki dots" has better feeding qualities than all other breeds, maturing to market size

Missouri



# Agriculture - 1938

## Improvement of

Hillsboro, N. C. News  
September 22, 1938

## Negro Farmers Orange County Show Good Progress

Thursday, September 15, Orange County Negro farmers conducted their third Annual Farm Tour. Robert Burnett, Route 3, Mebane, took pleasure in showing the group his fine tobacco, hogs, corn and hay. He showed the group an acre of lespedeza from which he had cut four loads of fine hay. He took pride in showing the group his four fine work stock, three mules and one horse. The home improvements were very noticeable, too. Approaching the house one would observe that the house had been wired and that a modern washing machine and electric iron were being used which served to take the drudgery out of the house work.

W. L. Oliver, Route 3, Mebane, had completely remodeled his home and took great pleasure in showing the group his house, lawn, poultry house, corn and hogs. Andrew Oliver, son of W. L. Oliver, showed the group a fine field of corn.

The next stop was made at the home of Lawson Pinnix, Route 1, Efland. Here the group observed corn and lespedeza. From here we continued to Wesley Poteat's home where the group observed a modern brooded house constructed from logs. This farm is also under the supervision of the Soil Erosion Conservation Service. The group observed some fine corn on Joe Vincent's farm.

The group was very much impressed with the fine showing made by Wayman Torain, a sharecropper in the farm of E. W. Mordecai, Route 2, Hillsboro. Here the group observed some fine hybrid corn. R. Hudson, State Agent, stated that he believed that the hybrid corn would yield 20 per cent more corn per acre than the other corn

in the field.

It was here that the group observed some of the finest corn seen on the tour. The group observed some fine corn on Joe Brooks' farm. Here the group saw a whole farm demonstration. This farm has a five year agreement with the Soil Erosion Conservation Service for crop rotations on 73 acres, contour tillage on 73 acres, terraces 60 acres, pasture improvement crops on 14 acres each year. Also plans are going forward to completely remodel the house. While there is not any electric power available, there is a motor driven washing machine on the farm which does the family washing and that of two other families living nearby.

The group observed some fine hay on W. E. Torain's farm, Route 2, Hillsboro. Here the group also observed the first terrace surveyed in the county by the Negro County Agent.

Alexander Carroll, Route 2, Chapel Hill, was the next stop where the group observed a well kept lawn, alfalfa demonstration and a corn demonstration. The corn having been plowed last with a turning plow, someone raised the question as to whether county agents should not hold a revival each year for farmers who persist in treating their corn with the turning plow during the last cultivation and have them set at the mourner's bench and ask to be prayed for.

Robert Atkins of the same community took pleasure in showing the group some fine pigs and lespedeza, while his son, Thurman, showed the group two small brooder houses and 100 baby chicks. He stated to the group that he has brooded 500 chicks this year and sold them for \$50.00 per hundred chickens.

Dinner was served the group at the Cool Spring community school by the Cool Spring Farm and Home Builders Club and other members of the community. Here the community leaders and visitors were given an opportunity to make a few remarks. Thomas Couch extended a

hearty welcome to the visitors; T. A. Hammt., Negro County Agent, brought greetings from Durham county; John W. Mitchell, Negro District Agent, told the group that he had gotten a better picture of the work being done in the county than he could have gotten from reports, and urged their continued support of the extension program in the county. C. R. Hudson, State Agent, observed that progress is being made among Orange County Negro farmers and urged them to continue to work in cooperation with their county agent.

Artis Burroughs showed the group some fine corn.

The group observed a sanitary toilet and other improvements at the home of James Pratt. Here the Canning Club composed of women of the Cool Spring community with their new pressure cooker posed for a picture.

The next stop was made at Benton Roberson's home where the group observed a fine field of corn. Thomas Couch showed the group a fine field of lespedeza. This farm is another one of the six Negro farms in the county under supervision of the Soil Erosion Conservation Service. Mrs. Ella Trice showed the group a large variety of canned vegetables and fruits.

Irvin Nunn, Route 2, Chapel Hill, was where the group observed "Pon Eye," the pure bred Jersey bull calf purchased from Dr. H. W. Odum's farm June 8, 1938. "Pon Eye" demonstrated to the group how to take milk from a bottle while his picture was being snapped.

Lumberton, N. C. News  
October 24, 1938

## 97 Bushels Corn Is Acre Yield Of Negro Farmer

Gordon Thompson Almost Reaches This Year His 1936 State

## Record of 101.9 Bu.

A. G. (Gordon) Thompson, prominent negro landowner and farmer of Back Swamp township, has made a fine record again this year with a yield of 97 bushels of corn on an acre.

That does not quite equal his record of two years ago, however, when he won the state championship with an acre yield of 101.9 bushels and was given a free trip to Washington.

Gordon is a member of the Hills Branch Bull association, organized in June 1936, a group of negro farmers who bought a pure-bred Jersey bull sired by the 1935 State fair champion owned by Dr. Howard Odum of N. C. university. Other members of the association are A. C. Byrd, Wesley Jones, W. V. Floyd, C. M. Jerald, I. S. McCollum, Levy Taylor, W. O. Thompson.

The bull was purchased in Alamance county at a cost of \$67.50. Dr. Odum, owner of the bull, donated \$15 dollars on the above price, states S. T. Brooks, Robeson negro farm agent.

Greensboro, N. C. News  
November 11, 1938

## LARGE CORN YIELD IS REPORTED BY FARMER

Johnny Siddle, negro farmer of the Reedy Fork community, realized an average yield of 102.7 bushels of corn per acre on a four-acre plot this year, it was determined yesterday when the harvest was measured at a meeting of negro farmers which was attended by a number of farm officials.

W. B. Harrison, negro county farm agent, said the yield was considered a remarkable one in view of the fact that the average yield of the county was 22 bushels and of the state 18.6 bushels during the 1936 season.

The record will vie with others in a state contest, the winner of which will get a free trip to Washington.

Approximately 50 negro farmers attended the meeting yesterday at Siddle's tract, which is situated on the farm of Walter Bunch, mayor of Asheboro. Officials attending included O. F. McCrary, district farm agent; John W. Mitchell, negro district farm agent; J. I. Wagoner, county farm agent; C. R. Hudson, state supervisor of farm work, and Eugene Knight, of Raleigh, representing F. H. Jeter, of State college.

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The entertainment program included a wiener roast and music by the 4-H club quartet of Summerfield negro school.



# Farm Families Make Good On North Carolina Tenant Plan

**Working On Trial Basis To Prove Ownership Ability**

low markets.

Good houses, barns and outbuildings are on each farm. Where families have come in without sufficient livestock, farm equipment or household necessities, short-term loans have been made to them to supply these deficiencies.

Gastonin N. C. Gazette  
December 6, 1938

**He's Number One Poultry Raiser Among Negro Farmers Of State**

**TWENTY-FOUR Negro families LAND CAREFULLY CHECKED**

are harvesting crops, this fall, on the North Carolina Farm Tenant Security Project of the Farm Security Administration, in eastern North Carolina. Tobacco is a principal cash crop, but in August and flue-cured, is already on the market.

The farms on which these families live together with sixty-two white families are living, were bought outright by the Federal government and will be resold to the families now located on them, as soon as they have proved themselves capable of farm ownership.

Some of the families accepted as tenants already lived on desirable land, and in many cases these farms were bought by the government, enabling the renter to come into the project without moving.

Unlike the projects at Southeast Missouri or Lakeview, Arkansas, the North Carolina Farm Tenant Security is of the infiltration type, consisting of scattered farms in well-established farming communities, spread over more than 7,000 acres of selected farm land in seven counties.

## ON TRIAL BASIS

Although set up, for the most part, on separate tracts, all farms on the project are operated under a common management, each farmer working on a trial basis to prove his ownership ability.

On qualifying for ownership, the client begins to buy his land on terms which approximate the usual rentals on tenant farms. An 83-acre farm costing \$3,700 can be bought for \$160 a year, over a period of 40 years, at three percent interest.

The tracts vary in size, but are all large enough to produce, if properly handled, an income that will enable these tenants to live decently and healthfully, according to American standards, while buying their farmsteads.

As on all Farm Security projects farming programs include plans for crop rotation, erosion control, subsistence gardens, and the raising of ample livestock. More than one cash crop is always raised, a practice which lessens the chances of loss from climatic conditions or

All land bought for the project is carefully checked for soil type and production records. Only land on which the average yield per acre is satisfactory is purchased. This care in purchasing means that families previously living in poverty on worn-out land are assured of a fair chance for success on the government project—and the government's funds are safe-guarded.

The farm home of Walter Pate, is typical of other farms on the North Carolina project. Pate, who is forty years old, moved on his 77-acre project farm in 1938. All his life he had been sharecropping around the neighboring country, accumulating what he could—two cows, a heifer, some hogs, a few chickens and a few household furnishings.

The Pate family moved into a house costing \$1300, with a smoke house and poultry house costing \$100 each, a \$450 stock barn and \$350 tobacco barn.

## STARTED ON \$620 LOAN

The prospective owner was loaned \$620 for stock, fencing, farm equipment, seed fertilizer and subsistence for his family of eleven. He bought the farm stuff himself and got good bargains. Rental arrangements are 25 percent of cash crops with an additional \$15 for pasture. The whole payment must not be less than \$160.

This farmer has forty acres under cultivation and is doing well. The Pates are typical of the progress being made by these families, many of whom are already beginning to buy their places.

The scattered locations of these infiltration project farms, among neighboring farms on similar soil, operated under the same general conditions as to climate and market, make them especially useful demonstrations of the Farm Security Administration's program for helping the nation's farmers.

NEW BERN, Dec. 6.—Eddie Jones is generally recognized as the No. 1 poultry raiser among farmers in Craven county, is getting competition from other progressive members of his race, notably Mrs. Annie Alford J. A. Bryant of Cove City. O. E. Evans, Negro county agent of the State College Extension Service.

Jones placed on his farm last year 700 baby chicks, and by using methods recommended by Extension specialists, he raised 647 of them. He sells many chickens to hotels and cafes in this section. Recently he placed 300 pure-bred Rhode Island Red baby chicks in the modern brooder house he built last year.

## Mrs. Allen is building a brooder

house with a capacity of 200 chicks on her place and she has placed orders for pure-bred chicks. Bryant recently bought 300 baby chicks, and says he is beginning to realize that pure-bred poultry pays best.

For many years Bryant has been interested in poultry raising and made many provisions for carrying on the work. However, until last year he was operating with a brooder house that was too small, too low, and too dark to allow a good circulation of heat and sunlight.

Noting the success other poultrymen of the county have had in brooding chicks in their tobacco barns, Bryant decided to try it. Now his advice is: "For cheaper brooding and less trouble, go to the tobacco barn."



Agriculture - 1938  
Improvement of

Greensboro N.C.  
Patriot

Monroe, N. C. Enquirer  
January 31, 1938

# NEGRO CORN GROWERS MAKE LARGER YIELDS

For years, the Negro division of the State College Extension Service has been plugging the slogan: "More corn at less cost."

Now, declares C. R. Hudson, noticeable results are being secured as colored farmers have harvested corn yields far above the State average at comparatively low production costs.

Most of this work has been accomplished through state-wide corn-growing contests with more and more farmers participating each year in an attempt to outyield their neighbors.

In the 28 counties where Negro extension work is carried on, 673 farmers in 1937 grew on 1180 acres an average of 51 bushels an acre. The corn brought \$18 an acre or 35 cents a bushel.

John H. Johnson, Halifax county, led all contestants by producing an average of 97.8 bushels of corn to the acre. He was followed closely by James E. Boone, Pasquotank county, who grew 93.5 bushels.

Among the counties in the contest, Granville, with 150 farmers taking part, stood first, growing an average of 53 bushels at a cost of 23 cents per bushel. Gates was second with 61 contestants producing an average of 58 bushels at a cost of 27 cents. Vance captured third place with 30 growers in the contest averaging 54 bushels at a cost of 33 cents.

Hudson said that other counties ranking high in the competition were Alamance, Orange, Durham, and Pasquotank.

In the 4-H corn-growing contest for colored farm boys, John and James Cohn of Alamance county walked away with first place by producing 84.1 bushels an acre.

Lenoir, N. C. News-Topic  
February 4, 1938

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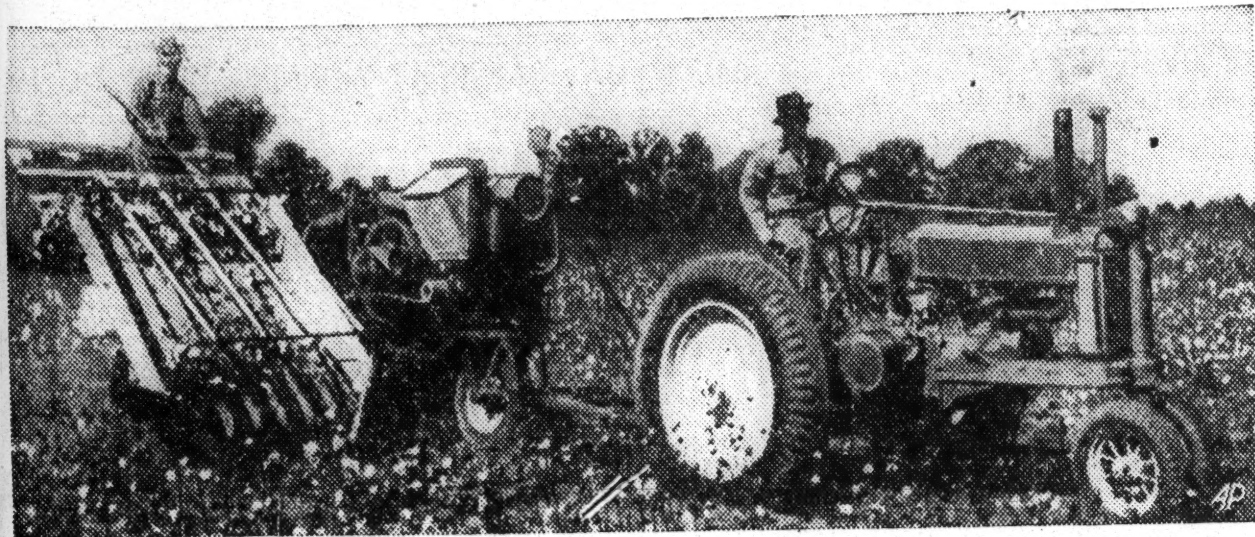
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# Cotton Men May Grow Auto Parts



**THIS COTTON HARVESTER**, made to garner the whole plant, cuts and dumps the harvest in 150-pound bales ready for the market. By-products from stalks mean extra profit.

By THE AP FEATURE SERVICE

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.—A new plan to take the backache out of the cotton field — and put back more money into the cotton farmer's jeans — is being worked out here by Dr. Frank K. Cameron, a University of North Carolina chemist.

When the Rust brothers tried the same thing, with a mechanical cotton picker, they made a national sensation.

Instead of using a picker, Dr. Cameron would cut down the cotton plant and harvest the stalk and all. And instead of seeing the cotton staple in the usual way, he would utilize the whole plant. From it he would extract cellulose for the rayon and plastic industries.

With this system, he figures, the farmer might make \$10 to \$15 an acre net, against \$10 or less under the old.

## Tried 8 Years

Dr. Cameron says his method of growing and utilizing cotton will never supplant the conventional system entirely. But if put to wide use it would eliminate over-production of lint cotton, raise cotton prices and put the cotton business on a more profitable basis.

His calculations are based on current prices. If cellulose prices dropped and lint prices soared, that would be another story.

Dr. Cameron has been at his experiments for eight years. At first he and associates financed the experiments largely from their own funds. Recently their work attracted enough attention for the Cotton Research Foundation of Memphis to arrange a fellowship.

Under the Cameron system, backaches would cease long before the harvest started.

Instead of planting the cotton widely spaced, then thinning and cultivating it laboriously, the cotton farmer would plant it in close rows with more plants in the row, crowding the plants to force early maturity.

Then, with a machine like one already built, he would cut the cotton

plant, bale it in 150-pound bales, and haul it to a cellulose processing plant. There the cotton seed oil would be extracted by a new chemical process. The proteins extracted by alkalis, and from the residue of stalks, bolls and lint cellulose recovered for manufacturing things like rayon, high grade paper, auto door handles, viscoses, sponges, soda straws, book binding, jewelry and ornamental braid.

The cotton harvesting machine, unlike the cotton picker, was fairly easy to construct. A large implement concern with generations of experience in building grain harvesters soon built a cotton harvester for Dr. Cameron. He quotes the company (John Deere) as estimating the per acre harvesting cost at 20 cents in large scale operations. The harvester would sell for about \$1,500. It might be owned co-operatively.

Dr. Cameron's own work has been in the research laboratory developing practical processing methods and checking up on uses for products derived from the whole cotton plant.

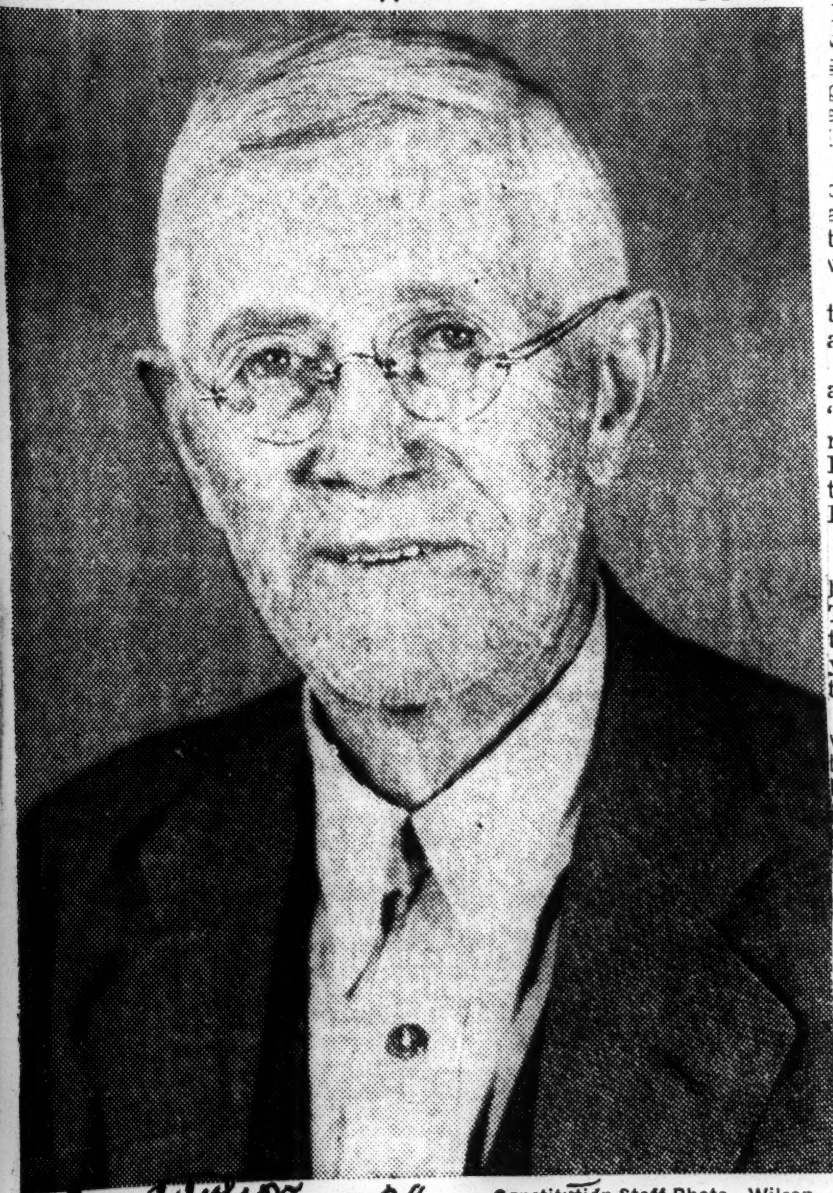
Now he feels that things are far enough along for some industrial firm to build an experimental plant.

"We can produce as much pulp per acre as the growers of wood cellulose," he says.



Agriculture - 1938  
6  
Improvement of.

## Special Awards Offered Sharecroppers



Constitution 2-10-38  
J. W. Clegg, 69, whose half a dozen sharecroppers yesterday were offered awards in a private Plant-to-Prosper competition, is shown above. He operates farms in Walton county, and will give cash money to the best farmers in his own group.

## Additional Prizes Offered In Plant-to-Prosper Drive

Sweepstake Winner To Receive 40 Tons of Pulverized Lime.

By HERMAN HANCOCK.

Additional prizes were offered progressive Georgia farmers yesterday as interest and enthusiasm

Little, president of the Willingham-Little Stone Company, Atlanta, promised the sweepstake winner in The Constitution's program a carload, 40 tons, of sacked pulverized lime as an additional award. Lime is used extensively in legume crops.

In announcing the private sharecropper competition for his tenants, Clegg said that The Constitution's sharecropper objectives will be used to decide the issue.

He was superintendent for Walton county schools for eight years, and taught school for 22 years.

"About 500 acres of my holdings are under cultivation," Clegg said. "We have been getting by, but we must not be doing the right thing. I want the families on our farm to prosper. If they make money, I believe maybe I can also."

**Believes in Agriculture.**  
"I have all that land, and I believe still in Georgia agriculture. The tenants and I are going to try to do a good job of farming this year, and I want to encourage them in any way I can."

"The tenants on our properties who makes the best record in the tenant class in The Constitution's Plant-to-Prosper program will get \$15 in cash, second-place winner, \$10, and third place, \$5."

"I will make the awards myself after the judging has been done by H. H. Shores, Walton county agricultural agent, and his aides." "Our company is interested in better farming conditions for Georgia," Little said. "We want to make a reasonable contribution to the Plant-to-Prosper campaign because we believe it is one of the most progressive steps ever taken by a newspaper in this state."

"It strikes at the very source of our progress and prosperity and is of vital importance to every man, woman and child in Georgia."

**Contribution for Soil.**  
"We will pay the freight and will give the pulverized limestone to the sweepstakes winner because we believe that is where it should go. In addition to winning the \$500 in that bracket, he will have a substantial contribution for his soil."

Clegg's farm is about four miles south of Monroe and six miles from Social Circle. It is within sight of Alcovy mountain.

In addition to the six tenant farm families, there are half a dozen other families who are living on Clegg's holdings.

**State-Wide Drive Launched.**  
The two new awards were promised yesterday as agricultural and home demonstration agents of Georgia counties prepared to

Plant-to-Prosper Competition.

launch a state-wide drive in Georgia for entries into the Plant-to-Prosper program and to swell application lists before the actual closing, set for April 1, 1938. Vocational teachers will be provided with information blanks within the next few days.

An application blank is carried in this issue of The Constitution for the convenience of those who wish to enter. It must be filled in and mailed directly to Walter S. Brown, director of the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service, Athens, Ga.

The Constitution will give 33 cash awards, totaling \$4,000; eight silver trophies and 577 other honors in the state program.

Somerville, Tenn. Falcon February 24, 1938

## QUALIFY COUNTY IN TWO DIVISIONS OF FARM CONTEST

Six Farm Operators And Nine Tenants Entered

### PRIZES OFFERED

Local Interest Growing In Plant To Prosper Competition

Fayette County has qualified in two divisions of the Fayette Falcon-Commercial Appeal Plant To Prosper competition for this year. The enrollment drive has just started, according to a statement from C. O. Woody, county agent. Mrs. Laura E. Smith, home demonstration agent, is urging all club women in the county to see that their husbands enter the competition, or that they enter.

County prizes of \$20 and \$10 in each division, contributed by merchants and business men of Somerville, is an added inducement to entering this year. This will be in addition to the sweepstakes prizes offered by the Commercial Appeal.

Six farmers have entered the farm operator's division of the competition and more are expected before the end of this week. Those

entering to date are Mrs. Edna Boothe, Somerville; Mrs. Elizabeth Freeland, Somerville; E. B. Summers, Williston; Earl S. Marbury, Somerville; Mrs. Frankie Graham Yager, Somerville; A. H. Harvey, Mason.

Tenant farmer entries to date number nine with prospects of increasing this number before many days have passed. Names of those entering this division follow: Mrs. Laura E. Montague, Somerville; Mrs. J. E. Clement, Somerville; Alfred Tapp, Mason; J. C. Bolton, Somerville; James Taylor, Somerville; Ray D. Taylor, Somerville; Lonnie Feathers, Somerville; Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Sigler, Somerville; Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Adair, Somerville.

W. R. Davis, assistant agent in charge of negro work, states that he hopes to have 50 entries in the Negro Live At Home Competition this year. Only three names are on the list at the office of the county agent. They are Sam Pierce, Wievander Williams and Jerry Howell, all of Somerville.

Interest in the Plant To Prosper movement has steadily grown in this county. In 1934, when the Falcon offered a grand prize of \$25 for the county winner, only one farmer finished the competition. Last year several farmers finished in each of the two divisions, tenant and landowner.

The committee in charge this year, C. O. Woody, Mrs. Laura E. Smith, Joseph R. Martin and Roy C. Coleson, hope to have this county close to the top in number of entries and would like to see Fayette County win the county trophy for the largest percentage of entries.



March 17, 1938

# NEGRO FARMERS TO ENTER CONTEST

The negro farmers of Glynn county are receiving blanks to enter the state-wide Plant-to-Prosper contest. The purpose of this contest is to encourage the production of more food for family consumption, more feed for livestock, the building up and improving of farm land and the improving and beautifying of farm homes.

It is expected that this contest will be widely participated in throughout the state by the negro farmers, as facts have shown that they do not place enough stress on these activities of their farm life. Wesley Myers, local negro demonstration agent, is assisting in the contest in this county.

## GREENE COUNTY, ARK. WINS ENTRIES AWARD IN PLANT TO PROSPER

2581 Or 70 Per Cent Of Farm Families Enroll For Competition

## ARKANSAS LEADS STATES

11,518 Signed Up There—  
Tennessee Lists 3398

GRAND TOTAL IS 16,416

Trophy Will Be Presented At  
Dinner In Memphis On Dec.  
14 At Conclusion Of Fifth  
Annual Contest

By EUGENE RUTLAND

First place in The Commercial Appeal 1938 Plant To Prosper enrollment campaign goes to Greene County, Ark., where more than 70 per cent of the farm families are contestants.

Aided by Farm Security Administration supervisors, Geraldine G. Orrell, home agent, and John Stephens, county agent, and their staff, enrolled 2581 farm families in Greene County.

Presentation of the Plant To Prosper enrollment trophy will be made at the fifth annual Plant To Prosper dinner in Memphis on Wednesday, Dec. 14.

## Arkansas Leads States

As Greene County was more than doubling the enrollment from any other county, Arkansas swamped Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee by signing up 11,518 farm families in the \$2750 cash prize competition stressing food and feed production, diversification, soil conservation and home improvement.

Total enrollment of 16,416 is divided as follows:

Arkansas—11,518.  
Tennessee—3398.  
Mississippi—977.  
Missouri—523.

Arkansas led the list in the number of qualified counties with 73 of the 75 counties in the state enrolling five or more families. Mississippi has 33 qualified counties.

## Honor County Winners

All of the 21 counties in West Tennessee and one in Middle Tennessee—Montgomery—qualified. Twenty-three counties in Missouri will compete for the state awards totaling \$450.

County winners in each division of the competition will be awarded certificates of honor and will be invited to the Plant To Prosper dinner. They will compete for the state prizes and the right to represent their state in the sweepstakes competition.

Final tabulations of enrollment by counties are:

## ARKANSAS

Arkansas County, 11 landowners, 42 tenants, 9 operators; Ashley, 11, 30, 10; Benton, 21, 25, 0; Baxter, 54, 65, 5; Boone, 16, 6, 5; Bradley, 11, 29, 0; Carroll, 22, 15, 1; Clarke, 16, 52, 3; Chicot, 12, 10, 13; Clay, 171, 10; Calhoun, 21, 1, 6; Cleveland, 84, 5; Cleveland, 25, 5, 6; Crawford, 10, 1, 3; Columbia, 31, 19, 0; Conway, 81, 1; Craighead, 65, 172, 9; Crittenden, 30, 9; Cross, 23, 47, 17; Desha, 11, 3, 6; Drew, 19, 22, 1; Dallas, 40, 19, 3; Franklin, 45, 71, 18; Faulkner, 13, 38, 0; Fulton, 5, 4, 1; Greene, 1507, 1065, 9; Grant, 18, 5, 18; Hempstead, 141, 28, 133; Hot Spring, 11, 12, 9; Howard, 7, 16, 8; Independence, 8, 177, 8; Izard, 125, 145, 0; Jackson, 66, 11, 5; Jefferson, 9, 10, 5; Johnson, 7, 4, 1; Lawrence, 25, 31, 140; Lafayette, 24, 61, 0; Lee, 14, 13, 1; Lincoln, 2, 1; Little River, 14, 20, 5; Logan, 54, 38, 0; Lonoke, 38, 2, 6; Madison, 124, 29, 7; Marion, 152, 62, 7; Miller, 20, 27, 12; Mississippi, 673, 382, 176; Monroe, 21, 155, 2; Montgomery, 38, 7, 14; Nevada, 38, 23, 0; Newton, 108, 20, 17; Ouachita, 5, 15; Perry, 23, 17, 12; Phillips, 7, 9, 6; Pike, 1, 1, 0; Polk, 23, 26, 0; Poinsett, 20, 118, 12; Pulaski, 7, 0, 0; Pope, 6, 2; Prairie, 130, 130, 5; Randolph, 189, 225, 10; Saline, 35, 43, 0; Scott, 5, 27, 0; Searcy, 31, 22, 5; Sebastian, 13, 5, 1; Sevier, 28, 59, 3; Sharp, 114, 132, 6; Stone, 111, 60, 17; St. Francis, 10, 28, 2; Union, 47, 14, 0; Woodruff, 10, 39, 0; Washington, 21, 18, 1; White, 683, 207, 51; Yell, 43, 11.

## TENNESSEE

Benton, 39, 46, 7; Carroll, 16, 15, 12; Chester, 40, 19, 18; Crockett, 36, 46, 27; Decatur, 32, 17, 7; Dyer, 41, 45, 9; Fayette, 11, 22, 24; Gibson, 18, 14, 2; Hardeman, 89, 119, 118; Hardin, 7, 0, 7; Haywood, 13, 35, 47; Henderson, 35, 101, 21; Henry, 251, 72, 95; Lake, 5, 1, 10; Lauderdale, 14, 15, 8; Madison, 7, 8; McNairy, 433, 532, 266; Montgomery, 36, 78, 12; Obion, 9, 8, 0; Shelby, 17, 69, 74; Tipton, 10, 14, 9; Weakley, 46, 22, 16.

## MISSISSIPPI

Attala, 5, 1, 3; Benton, 5, 14, 2; Bolivar, 2, 0, 7; Calhoun, 16, 42, 6; Choctaw, 9, 0, 0; Clarke, 6, 0, 2; Coahoma, 2, 11, 3; Copiah, 0, 5, 2; Clay, 0, 7, 2; Covington, 12, 6, 1; Forrest, 18, 3, 17; Hancock, 6, 0, 0; Humphreys, 5, 1, 3; Jefferson, 5, 7, 0; Jones, 6, 0, 1; Lafayette, 120, 10, 29; Marshall, 8, 11, 1; Neshoba, 9, 3, 0; Oktibbeha, 0, 7, 2; Panola, 6, 10, 3; Pearl River, 60, 22, 19; Prentiss, 5, 0, 0; Pontotoc, 101, 73, 26; Scott, 5, 0, 0; Smith, 5, 0, 0; Sunflower,

1, 10, 2; Tippah, 6, 8, 5; Tishomingo, 11, 8, 5; Tunica, 7, 11, 0; Union, 11, 7, 0; Yalobusha, 2, 5, 2.

## MISSOURI

Barry, 5, 0, 0; Bollinger, 62, 15, 24; Butler, 22, 11, 1; Cape Girardeau, 13, 1, 0; Carter, 0, 5, 0; Dunklin, 23, 28, 5; Howell, 6, 0, 1; McDonald, 12, 0, 13; Madison, 9, 7, 0; Mississippi, 5, 5, 6; New Madrid, 8, 6, 4; Oregon, 25, 5, 1; Pemiscot, 13, 7, 6; Perry, 13, 0, 0; Reynolds, 5, 1, 0; Ripley, 13, 5, 1; St. Francis, 10, 5, 0; Ste. Genevieve, 5, 0, 2; Scott, 15, 19, 5; Stoddard, 7, 6, 4; Wayne, 2, 0, 8; Webster, 13, 0, 5; Wright, 14, 0, 9.

## TENNESSEE TO NAME FARM PRIZE WINNERS

Plant To Prosper Champions  
To Be Picked

## COMMITTEE IN FIELD

Total Of 44 Winners In 20  
Counties Are In Final Round

In State — Negro Champions  
Also To Be Named

Success stories in farming will be reviewed by Tennessee's Plant To Prosper Judging Committee today as finalists in the 1938 Plant To Prosper Competition in Tennessee are selected.

Forty-four county winners in 20 counties have completed their year's work and have entered the state competition for \$450 in cash awards, a registered Jersey bull calf and the right to represent the Volunteer State in the MidSouth Sweepstakes.

## Committee In Field

Today the committee composed of H. S. Nichols, assistant extension director; Judd Brooks, district agent; H. E. Hendricks, extension agronomist; A. J. Sims, extension editor; Miss Madred Jacobs, district Home Demonstration agent, and a representative of the Plant To Prosper Bureau of The Commercial Appeal will eliminate all but four contestants in each division.

First place winners in the landowner, tenant, home improvement and farm operator divisions will represent the state in the sweepstakes contest, for cash awards totaling \$950 and four trophies.

## Awards Assured

First place in the state in the landowner and tenant divisions carries a cash award of \$100; second \$75, and third \$50.

Farm families in the state competition are:

Benton County—Joe Farlow, tenant, and John Furr, farm operator.

Carroll—Claude Chandler, landowner, and W. H. Holland, farm operator.

Chester—Carmon Johnson, landowner, and G. A. Sparks, tenant. Crockett—F. R. Warren, land-

owner; B. H. Young, tenant, and R. A. Pugh, farm operator.

Decatur—W. H. Volner, landowner; Erie Jerdan, tenant, and Fount Milam, home improvement.

Fayette—E. B. Summers, landowner, and Alfred Tapp, tenant.

Gibson—C. S. Fisher, landowner, and J. M. Fly, tenant.

Hardeman—Hershel Hammons, landowner; Alvin Wheeler, tenant, and S. P. Adams, home improvement.

Hardin—Dave H. Prince, landowner, and Crafton Alexander, tenant.

Haywood—J. N. Morris, landowner; Burr Hight, tenant, and E. L. Davis, home improvement.

Henderson—John Pope, landowner, and George Hedge, tenant.

Henry—R. I. Dale, landowner, and Charles Rose, tenant.

Lake—W. N. Robinson, landowner.

Lauderdale—Arch L. Stewart, landowner; Clarence Brown, tenant, and P. M. Parker, farm operator.

Madison—J. C. Gary, landowner. McNairy—W. R. Wilson, landowner, and Jess Moss, tenant.

Montgomery—T. B. Oliver, landowner; Ray Alsobrooks, tenant; P. M. Hodges, home improvement, and Julian Frey, farm operator.

Obion—Jim Britt, farm operator.

Tipton—J. B. Anthony, farm operator, and W. B. McQuiston, tenant.

Weakley—Joe Sanderson, landowner, and Becham Vaughn, tenant.

## 11 Negro Families Seek State Prizes

Eleven negro farm families will compete for state prizes of \$100 in the Negro Live At Home Contest. First place carries an award of \$50; second, \$25; third, \$15, and fourth, \$10. The first place winner will compete for the \$250 sweepstakes award offered by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee and The Commercial Appeal trophy.

Families entering the state contest are Robert Robertson of Crockett County, Eugene McFerrin of Fayette County, Luther Barnett of Gibson County, Robert L. Lambert of Hardeman County, Frank Outlaw of Haywood County, Vergie Priddy of Henderson County, Albert Lockard of Lauderdale County, Clarence C. Day of Madison County, Frank Thacker of Montgomery County, H. A. Suttles of Shelby County and T. Mach Miller of Tipton County.



Sumter, S. C., Daily Item  
August 25, 1938

## Colored Farmers Getting Results From Small Acreage

More cotton and corn on curtailed acreage is the kernal of the farm program. Some farmers say it cannot be done, but others are proving that it can be done by doing it.

Joe McMillon, colored, who lives near Oswego, is one who has demonstrated the fact. This year he has five acres planted in cotton and five in corn as demonstration crops under the supervision of J. C. Maloney, negro county farm agent.

The cotton has produced more than a bale to the acre and is now being picked. A conservative estimate of the yield of the five acres, despite the destruction of the top crop by boll weevils, is seven bales. It may turn out eight bales. The matured bolls are there, and opening rapidly and are beyond the reach of boll weevils. This cotton was planted April 10-15, was fertilized with stable manure, 500 pounds 8-4-4 and side dressed with 100 pounds nitrate of soda per acre. The cotton variety used is Cleve-wilt No. 4.

The five acre corn crop has an average of 14,000 stalks to the acre and the stalks average two ears to the stalk—many having three large ears. It is estimated to yield 100 bushels to the acre, or better. Corn variety, Douthit's Prolific, planted April 20. The land was treated with 200 pounds of agricultural lime per acre before the corn was planted. It was fertilized with stable manure, 300 pounds 8-4-4 and 200 pounds nitrate of soda per acre. It is a fine crop of corn and certainly looks like it will turn out the estimated 100 bushels to the acre.

County Agent Maloney has this year ten negro farmers planting 5 acre demonstration plots of cotton and corn, and all of them have secured satisfactory results; and Joe McMillon's is one of the best. Several others are practically as good.

In addition to the adult negro farmers who are doing demonstration work, Farm Agent Maloney has 495 negro boys carrying on demonstration projects with corn, cotton, peanuts, sweet potatoes, pigs, broodsows, poultry, etc. One

boy has a brood sow with a litter of 12 pigs, that will apparently reach the ton-litter class within the specified time. Not all of these negro farm club members will complete their demonstration projects and make their reports, but agent Maloney says that he believes 75 or 80 per cent of the members enrolled will complete the work and file the required reports at the end of the season.

Columbia & C State

October 24, 1938

### He Finds Share Cropping A Prosperous Business.

Greenville, Miss. — (AP) — Walter Jones, a Negro farmer, is proving that a cotton tenant farmer's life isn't necessarily one of destitution.

Jones share crops 40 acres on the J. E. Keil plantation and says he gets a 500-pound bale of cotton to the acre while tenants nearby make 200 pounds or less. He also finds time to plant a garden, work in a sawmill and run a blacksmith shop.

Recently he invented a machine to thin out cotton plants in the row which he says is better than any other such machine now on the market.



# Agriculture - 1938 Improvement of

Dyersburg, Tenn. Gazette  
January 18, 1938

## Negroes Organize To

### Conserve Farm Soil

Two adult classes of negro farmers have been organized for the purpose of teaching farmers to save their soil and grow more for a living at home.

At the present market price the group of farmers found that to buy the amount of food and feed for the average farm family will cost about \$435 per year and that by growing all their food and feed at home they will save each family this amount. If all instructions are carried out, 39 farmers in the two communities will save approximately \$16,965.

Meetings at Middle City are held at Dobbins Grove school and the group at RoEllen meets at the Rock Springs school. Both groups are organized with James Adams, president at Middle City and Rubin Walker president at Rock Springs. The farm boys in these communities are also taking up better methods of farming. W. L. Threlkeld is the instructor.

## Rusts Claim Cotton Picker Now Success

MEMPHIS, TENN., Feb. 14—(AP)—John and Mack Rust, brothers and co-inventors of a mechanical cotton picker, claimed today the practical value of their machine had been established on the basis of the 1937 field report.

The report, kept by Ray Kimbell of the Rust Cotton Picker Company and attested to by planters on whose farms the machine was operated, during the Fall at a cost of 11 cents per hundred pounds.

Elsewhere in the sections of Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi in which the picker was demonstrated, planters paid hand pickers an average wage of one dollar per hundred pounds, the report said.

"For the first time in ten years we are able to say without preface that we have a machine that is now ready for commercial production," the brothers said.

The staple in many cases graded as good or better than the hand-picked the report said, the improved staple being harvested after frost

when the leaf was gone. The Rust brothers have demonstrated their picker in Soviet Russia and in South America. They are working on plans for commercial production of their machine on a limited scale.

Memphis, Tenn., Scimitar  
August 24, 1938

## NEGRO TENANTS BUY OWN FARM

With Help of Uncle Sam; First  
Such Family to Do So  
In Shelby

Shelby County's first negro tenant family to become land owners under the Bankhead-Jones Act received their loan today.

From a house "where the rain poured in," Martin and Lois Brown of Kerrville, route 1, will move into a new six-room house on a 102-acre tract. They'll have new out-houses and will farm the New Deal streamlined way from now on.

Sharecroppers for 42 years, the couple have, thru careful management and sales of butter and eggs, sent all their children thru high school, while four have attended college.

"None of them has ever been arrested," the couple boasts.

The loan amounts to \$4785, payable in 40 years at six per cent interest. It was made by the Farm Security Administration, H. J. Jakes, supervisor.

## Owners To Divide Cotton Picking Machine Profits

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept. 2—The Rust cotton picker which is expected to displace thousands of Race workers who have earned their livings for years picking cotton, is to be a "blessing, not a curse," its inventors, John and Mack Rust, announced last week.

The brothers stated that they intend to limit their incomes to 10 times that of their lowest paid employee and to put the balance of the

profits in a foundation to be used for the uplift of southern workers

Bolivar, Tenn. Bulletin  
November 4, 1938

## Negro Live-At-Home Competition

Sponsored By Bolivar C of C

The winners in the Live-At-Home contest for the county were selected Tuesday, October 25, by the following committee: Mr. R. E. Davis and Miss Elizabeth Harwood of the Farm Security office, Mr. T. E. Anderson of the Bolivar Chamber of Commerce, assisted by E. R. Shockley and Emma Person, assistants in County Farm and Home Demonstration Agents in Negro Work:

- 1st—Robert L. Lambert and wife, Rt. 1, Whiteville.
- 2nd—Ed Hendricks and wife, Rt. 3, Bolivar.
- 3rd—Ed Matthews and wife, Rt. 4, Bolivar.
- 4th—Charlie Patrick and wife, Rt. 4, Bolivar.

The competition was close and all homes visited showed that interest, hard work and economy had been practiced during the year.

Food and feed were found in abundance on all farms visited. The first prize winners, Robert L. Lambert and his wife, Lucilla, are tenant farmers of the Whiteville community. They nosed out Ed Hendricks and his wife, Alice, land owners of the Oak Hill community, by a small margin.

Tennessee



Texas.

Agriculture - 1938  
Improvement of.

## 26 TEXAS COUNTIES HOLD MEAT SHOWS

Twenty-six counties conducted meat shows during the month of February, March and April. Home demonstration agents participated. Farm women displayed soap, lard and sausage in connection with the meat show. A total of 4,230 pieces of meat were shown. There were 106 exhibits of sausage, 231 of lard, 230 of soap, 213 of eggs and 100 miscellaneous exhibits of animal products. Twelve hundred and forty-three persons exhibited products during these shows and a total of 25,736 persons saw these exhibits. The meat was divided into the following cuts: Hams, 585; shoulders, 491; shoulder butts, 417; pork chops, 149; Dixie squares, 249; and bacons, 485.

Local Chamber of Commerce, merchants and others sponsored these shows and furnished merchandise prizes, and cash to encourage the farmers to keep up the good work of providing an adequate supply of meat for home use.

Some of the towns where the displays were held have offered to furnish auctioneers and advertisements for the shows during 1939. In one city six merchants operating large chain stores offered to purchase the entire exhibit at a substantial premium.

### NEGRO FARMERS OWN SYRUP-MAKING EQUIPMENT

Syrup-making equipment which is cooperatively owned by a group of Negro farmers in Falls county, Tex., is serving other farmers in the county. In Fayette county, Texas, another group of Negro farmers own and operate a saw mill.



## Labor Conditions.

Sharecroppers Hurt By  
AAA, Reader Says  
Editor, The Post:

Opp. Ala. News  
August 25, 1938

## NEGRO HUMOR

I read Mr. Harris' letter of recent date in The Post and I also read Mr. Pachon James' letter. Now Mr. James, I have this to say. The large landholders have nothing to complain of. They get their rental checks and sow the land that they get the checks off of to hay. While large landholders are getting their rental checks the sharecroppers are having to depend on relief for their frugal meals. And some of the sharecroppers have had to live in tents. Recently there were 100 of them in tents over in Arkansas. I want you to know, Mr. James, that the average tenant farmer is as hard working as any landholder. Mr. James inferred that the tenant farmer is disgruntled because he has had to go to work. Many of you, large landholders have made your living by working the tenants for as near nothing as you could.

I know Alabama almost like a book. I have been over the state from east to west and from north to south; I know how large landholders have treated the tenants.

When the Agricultural Adjustment Administration came into effect the tenants who had "raised" the landholders' families were told to "get." Why? Because the average landholder could draw a rental check and sow down the land that he was getting this check off of. I want you to know, Mr. James, that I am not a tenant. So don't accuse me of being another disgruntled tenant. You said that you personally had cut more acres than Mr. Harris could find between any two mountains in Blount County. If you have you didn't do it gratis.

J. D. T.  
Moulton.

## Tenants Are Urged To Sign For WPA

SELMA, ALA., Sept. 15.—(Special)—Miss Winston Lamar, head of the Dallas County welfare department, in anticipation of the application of farmers for the supplemental income program of the WPA, scheduled to start here on Oct. 15, today stated that landlords can save time for their tenants if they will confer with her office and secure a definite date on which tenants may apply.

Only heads of families in which the cash from income is less than \$1.00 per year are eligible for this supplemental income. Miss Lamar added that not more than 50 applicants will be

This one has been told before, but it is worth telling again. A negro tenant on a Coffee County farm wound up his crop year still deep in debt. Discussing his plight with his landlord he moaned, "Lawd, boss, I wish I had a million dollahs!"

The white man was amused. "Sam, what would you do with that much money if you had it?" he asked.

"Boss", replied the darkey, "I'd 'ply it on my debts just as fah as it'd go!"

taken in a day, and for this reason Miss Lamar urges landlords to list with her the time they desire to be interviewed. Two forms must be filled out, one to be signed by the landlord setting the date on which the tenant's farm work will be finished, and the other showing when the new crop year will start. At the expiration of the period set for the farmer's employment on the WPA projects, his name will be dropped and he will return to his farm work.

## Charges Framed Up Of Two Ala. Farmers

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Oct. 5—A formal account of the frame-up arrest of two young Negro sharecroppers in Tallapoosa County recently has been filed with Governor Bibbs Graves with a request for immediate action in the case.

The two sharecroppers, Willie J. Hart and Peavy Smith, both members of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing & Allied Workers, were arrested Sept. 7, near the town of Dadeville and charged with "highway robbery."

Richard Linsley, state organizer of the 60 farm workers union, identified the arrest of the two young farm workers as an attack on the union itself. The union is conducting a campaign against a WPA ruling which declares no farm family can be certified for work "unless the landlord concerned is satisfied to have the individual absent from his farm."

### Union Grows Rapidly

The union has grown rapidly in Tallapoosa County and local white landlords, who have been accustomed to rule by terror, have intensified their campaign to destroy it.

Young Hart is the son of the union organizer, Hosea Hart, of Tallapoosa County. The two lads were on their way to a union meeting when accosted and arrested by

Sheriff Cliff Corprew. The "law" in Dadeville has repeatedly voiced threats against the union and its leadership.



## Three Labor Flogging Suits To Be Dropped In Arkansas

Special The Commercial Appeal

JONESBORO, Ark., Nov. 2.—

Denver L. Dudley, attorney for the defendants in three labor flogging damage suits, announced today that the suits, seeking \$90,000, will be dismissed in Federal Court when it convenes here Nov. 14, ending two and one-half years of litigation in one of the most sensational labor cases in this section.

The damage suits were filed separately by Miss Willie Sue Blagden of Memphis, Eliza Nolden, a negro woman now dead, and J. M. Reese, a labor organizer, against a group of Earle planters and ginners as the outgrowth of alleged floggings between June 8 and 15, 1935, in and near Earle.

Defendants in the cases were listed as Boss Dulaney, Earl Cherry, Ernest Richards, Tommy Thomason, Percy Magness, L. L. Barhan and Dr. H. S. Watson.

The three suits, each asking \$30,000 for personal damages, first came up for trial in the November term of Federal Court in 1936, but a series of legal moves and technicalities prevented them from being brought before a jury.

Mr. Dudley said arrangements to have the suits dropped had been reached by agreement with C. A. Stanfield of Hot Springs, attorney for the plaintiffs.

He said there was no out-of-court settlement or payment of any kind involved.

Miss Blagden, Reese and Eliza Nolden charged they were flogged when they attempted to speak to sharecroppers during a period when a cotton chopping strike was being urged.



Agriculture - 1938  
Labor Conditions.

Arkansas.

## SUBPENAS ARE SERVED IN SUITS ON FLOGGINGS

Cases Slated To Be Heard  
Soon In Jonesboro

Special to The Commercial Appeal  
JONESBORO, Ark., March 14.—  
Deputy United States Marshal W.  
H. Burgess of Jonesboro has com-  
pleted serving subpoenas and other  
papers in connection with three  
suits pending in Federal Court  
here, which were the outgrowth of  
alleged floggings and intimidations  
by Crittenden County men in the  
1936 sharecropper strike.

The suits, totaling \$45,000, are  
styled: Miss Willie Mae Blagden vs.  
Boss Dulaney, Earl Cherry, Ernest  
Richards, Tommy Thompson and  
Percy Mangus; J. C. M. Reese vs.  
Mangus, Dr. H. S. Watson, Dulaney,  
Richards and L. L. Barham, and  
Elizabeth Nolen vs. Watson, Du-  
laney, Mangus and Barham.

Miss Blagden of Memphis alleges  
she was beaten June 15. Reese,  
whose home is in Bolivar County,  
Tenn., and Miss Nolen, charge they  
were beaten June 8.

The cases will probably be heard  
in the Spring term of court here.

# WOMAN FLOGGED IN COURT

## Arkansas Widow Says She Asked for Raise for Picking Cotton and Got Jail Term

BALTIMORE

Still showing the effects of a  
flogging inflicted on her person  
in an Arkansas court recently,  
Mrs. Henrietta McGhee, a share-  
cropper, told Baltimoreans on  
Monday that she was arrested  
at the point of a gun and jailed  
because she had asked for more  
wages for picking cotton.

Sponsored by a local group, ly  
headed by Miss Elizabeth Gil-  
man, the meeting was held at the  
Homewood Friends' Meeting  
House, and Dr. William R. Am-  
erson, presided.

Given Treatment

Hearing the woeful tales told  
by the woman sharecropper of  
how she was whipped by the  
sheriff because she refused to dis-  
cuss the names of the officials  
of the union of which she is a  
member, Mrs. B. J. Phillips, su-  
perintendent of Provident Hos-  
pital, who was in the audience  
extended a special invitation to  
the stranger to spend the night  
at the hospital, where she was  
treated for her wounds.

According to the superin-  
tendent, the marks left by  
the severe whipping were  
still fresh on the 50-year-old  
woman's back, and massages  
and other soothing remedies  
were administered.

She is quoted to have said the  
next day that she had never felt  
better in life after the treatment  
of the night before.

Mrs. McGhee told her mixed  
audience that her husband died  
a few months ago, leaving her to  
take care of eight children and  
some property. Being unable  
to take care of the land, her  
landlord seized all of the cotton,  
corn and potatoes that she had  
grown, leaving her to his mercy  
to work for 65 cents for picking  
cotton.

Told to Leave

The gray-haired woman said  
that she called on the white  
planter one day and asked him  
to increase her wages from 65  
cents to \$1 per hundred pounds  
for picking cotton, and he

abruptly refused, asking her to  
leave his premises.

On reaching home, she was  
greeted by a sheriff, who  
pointed a rifle in her face  
commanding her to enter his  
car to be taken to jail.

Accused by the landlord of  
asking for higher wages at the  
instigation of the Tenant Farm-  
ers' Union, Mrs. McGhee alleged-  
ly received a whipping in the  
court before the judge because  
she refused to tell the names of  
the officials of the union and was  
sentenced to the prison farm.

Lifted Logs

Dressed in two-piece dark  
knitted attire, she further in-  
formed her listeners that while  
in the prison farm she had to  
pick cotton and lift heavy logs.

Mrs. McGhee left for Wash-  
ington on Tuesday for another  
speaking engagement. From  
there she will make Nashville,  
Tenn., her next stop before go-  
ing back to Arkansas.

M. Griffin, white, also a share-  
cropper, who accompanied Mrs.  
McGhee on the trip, told his  
hearers that the Federal Gov-  
ernment could help the situation  
by proclaiming martial law.

## TENANT UNION VOICES PROTEST TO WALLACE

### Probe Is Asked On Signing Of Crop Payment Waivers

The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union yesterday asked Secretary Wallace to investigate complaints that four large Eastern Arkansas farmers are "forcing tenants to waive all Government payments, rentals and subsidies for 1937-38 and 1939 to secure grocery furnish during 1938."

H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the union, also said that a county agent was advising tenants to sign in order to get supplies for making the 1938 crop.

W. B. Vinsant, Crittenden Coun-  
ty agent, at Marion, said last night  
that some of the plantation oper-  
ators are having the tenants assign

their part of the Government rent-  
als and subsidies to secure their  
furnish bills.

"I haven't heard of any contracts  
that provide for waiving the pay-  
ments," said Mr. Vinsant.

He denied having urged tenants  
to waive their Government pay-  
ments.

THE ASS MUST BRAY

To The Commercial Appeal:

This indeed is a wonder age. It  
is a wonder that I, a sharecropper's  
wife, would admit the fact after  
reading Mr. Jim Moore's letter of  
April 7. And it is a wonder I didn't  
get mad, and it is a wonder I would  
admit that my grandfather on my  
mother's side was a fine old gentle-  
man by the name of W. J. Moore  
of Tennessee, who fought for the  
cause of the South. But I do, and  
I still respect the name, regardless!

And, wonder of wonders, I will  
admit there are some good land-  
lords who are fair with their ten-  
ants. And we have never been  
lucky enough to have a lawsuit with  
anybody, if you call that luck. And  
as for Government checks, we don't  
depend on them at all. We earn our  
living by the sweat of our faces.  
There are eight of us in the family  
and we will have only about 17 acres  
of cotton. We will get by without  
stealing even one ear of corn.

For with all our poverty and hard-  
ships, we still believe the promise  
that if you trust in the Lord and  
do good, so shall you dwell in the  
land and verily thou shalt be fed.  
Now I don't know what is in Ten-  
nessee, but I do know there are  
some mighty fine folks sharecrop-  
ping in Arkansas. And if Mr. Jim  
Moore will let us know what Sun-  
day he can come over, us old share-  
cropper women will get together  
and spread dinner in his honor  
and boy, will he get a shock! We  
all know that all a poor jackass  
can do is to paw, kick, and bray.  
And let me add that if it hadn't  
been for the so-called Gov-  
ernment checks, there would have  
been a lot of landlords on relief.

MRS. LILLIE COLLINS.

Tyronza, Ark.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
STUDIES ARKANSAS CASE

New York City, Apr. 8.—  
Following disclosures here during  
plantations in Eastern Arkansas,  
McGhee on a charge of enticing labor  
wage of one dollar a hundred pounds  
for the Advancement of Colored People  
before the Department of Justice,  
in Washington, asking for an in-  
vestigation.

The department has replied through Brien McMahon,  
assistant attorney general, stating that it will investigate the  
situation to see if federal laws have been violated.



# WOMAN FLOGGED IN COURT

# Arkansas Widow Says She Asked for Raise for Picking Cotton and Got Jail Term

abruptly refused, asking her to their part of the Government rental and subsidies to secure their leave his premises. furnish bills.

On reaching home, she was greeted by a sheriff, who pointed a rifle in her face commanding her to enter his car to be taken to jail.

Accused by the landlord of asking for higher wages at the instigation of the Tenant Farmers' Union, Mrs. McChesney alleged that she must have received a whipping in the past before the judge because she was a wonder and her wife would admit the fact after the Commercial Appeal:

Mr. Jim Moore's letter of reading April 27. And it is a wonder I wouldn't get mail, and it is a wonder I wouldn't admit that my grandfather on my mother's side was a fine old gentleman.

Dressed in two-piece darkman by the name of W. J. Moore admitted attire, she further in- of Tennessee, who fought for the cause of the South. But I do, and I will, respect the name, regardless of her listeners that while I still wonder of wonders, I will wonder

Angton on Tuesday for another, untold. And we have never been with-  
speaking engagement. From lucky enough to have a lawsuit with-  
where she will make Nashville, anybody if you call him back. And here  
ann, her next stop before go-as for Government agencies, we don't

M. Griffin, white, also a share-living by the sweat of our faces. There are eight of us in the family. The white man, who accompanied Mrs. Griffin, told us that we will have only about 17 acres of cotton. We will get by without much help from them at all. We fear our trip back to Arkansas.

hearers that the Federal Government could help the situation by proclaiming martial law.

**TENANT UNION VOICES**

Protest to wait after harvest, but I do know there are

# INVESTIGATIVE

## Probe Is Asked On Signing Of day he can come over, us old sharecropper women will get together

---

some mighty fine folks sharecroppin' in Arkansas. And if Mr. Jim Moore will let us know what Sunday he can come over, us old sharecropper women will get together

**Crop Payment Wavers** and spread dinner in his honor. The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union yesterday asked Secretary Canale and boy, will he get a shock! Wallace to investigate complaints. And let me add that if it hadn't been for that four large Eastern Arkansas farmers' Government loans to Government farmers all Government payments, been a lot of landlords on relief, rentals and subsidy for 1933-38 and 1939 to secure grocery flourish during 1938."

H. I. Mitchell, secretary of the Tyronza, Ark.

W. B. Vinsant, Crittenden County agent, at Marion, said last night that some of the plantation operators are having the tenants assign the 1938 crop.

Pres. Senate of the N.A.A.C.P.

The department has replied through Brien McMahon, assistant attorney general, stating that it will investigate the situation to see if federal laws have been violated.



# THREE FLOGGING SUITS MAY OPEN TOMORROW

\$45,000 Damages Asked As  
Result Of 1936 Farm Strife

Special to The Commercial Appeal  
JONESBORO, Ark., May 2.—  
Hearing of three damage suits in-  
volving claims totaling \$45,000 as an  
aftermath of 1936 farm labor trou-  
bles is expected to begin in Fed-  
eral Court here Wednesday when  
the civil docket is reached.

The suits are styled Miss Willie  
Sue Blagden vs. Boss Dulaney, Earl  
Cherry, Ernest Richards, Tommy  
Thompson and Percy Mangus; J.  
M. Reese vs. Mangus, Dr. H. S.  
Watson, Dulaney, Richards and L.  
L. Barham, and Elzie Nolen vs.  
Watson, Dulaney, Mangus and  
Barham. They ask damages for  
alleged floggings in connection with  
farm labor trouble near Earle in  
Crittenden County June, 1936.

Miss Blagden, Memphis social  
worker, charges she was beaten  
when she and the Rev. Claude Wil-  
liams of Little Rock went to Earle  
to locate the body of Frank Weems,  
negro sharecropper, who had been  
reported killed.

Reese, whose home is Bolivar  
Tenn., charges he was beaten  
placed on a train and ordered to  
leave town.

# THREE FLOGGING CASES CONTINUED UNTIL FALL

## Proceedings Put Off by Agree- ment of Counsel

Special to The Commercial Appeal  
JONESBORO, Ark., May 4. —  
Three cases charging flogging, an  
outgrowth of farm labor trouble in  
Crittenden County in 1936, were  
continued until the fall term of  
Federal Court here today by agree-  
ment of opposing counsel. Damages  
of \$45,000 are asked from seven  
Crittenden County men.

The continuance came shortly  
after noon when Judge Thomas C.  
Trimble overruled demurrers by  
Attorneys Sam Costen of Memphis  
and Denver L. Dudley of Jones-  
boro, asking that the suits be dis-  
missed.

Counsel for the plaintiffs alleged  
that the statute of limitations in  
Arkansas in assault and battery  
civil action had expired before ac-  
tion was started in the suit.

The suits were styled: Willie Sue

Blagden vs. Boss Dulaney, Earl  
Cherry, Ernest Richards, Tommy  
Thompson and Percy Mangus; J.  
M. Reese vs. Mangus, Dr. H. S.  
Watson, Dulaney, Richards and L.  
L. Barham, and Elzie Nolen vs.  
Watson, Dulaney, Mangus and Bar-  
ham.

Miss Blagden, of Memphis, al-  
leged she was beaten by heavy  
straps on June 15. Reese, whose  
home is in Bolivar County, Tenn.,  
and the Nolan woman, a negro,  
charge they were given beatings on  
June 8.

At the time the suits were filed,  
the Crittenden County men denied  
they had flogged the three out-of-  
state residents.

## Some Sharecroppers Live Up To Jim Moore's Description

To The Commercial Appeal:

I am a reader of your paper and  
enjoy it very much, and would like  
to write a few lines for publication.

In reply to the letter of Mr. Jim  
Moore, Union City, in April 17 issue,  
I believe Mr. Moore is somewhat  
mistaken about the sharecropper.  
Of course I will agree that some  
of them are like he says. But,  
right on the other side, there are  
cruel hearted plantation owners  
who do not want their sharecrop-  
pers to know anything about their  
Government money and do not want  
them to go to any of the county  
meetings. It seems to me that the  
landlord is afraid that the share-  
cropper will find out how he can  
get his rights. There are some ex-  
ceptions. I don't mean as a whole.  
In lots of cases, the landlord first  
figures how he can get what the  
sharecropper makes.

They first charge them from 20  
to 25 per cent interest, and general-  
ly furnish them from a plantation  
commissary at out-of-season prices.  
They charge them money rent on  
their corn land. In the fall they  
buy their sharecroppers' cotton at  
whatever they want to give them,  
not what cotton is worth on the  
market. And at all times if a share-  
cropper goes to his landlord and  
asks anything concerning his Gov-  
ernment money, he is ready to abuse  
him and tell him that's none of his  
business.

And as far as the sharecroppers'  
wives being poor cooks, I know  
there are plenty of them who can  
cook as good as any man's wife and  
just as economically. It seems to me  
as though Mr. Moore was saying  
too much when he implicated the  
women in peddling roasting ears.  
Mr. Moore was about right when he  
said fried side meat, flour gravy,  
and sorghum molasses was all they  
had to eat three times daily. The  
reason for this is that the cruel-  
hearted plantation owner or mana-  
ger has got the sharecropper in

such a rundown condition he is not  
able to afford anything more to eat,  
and lucky to get that much.

It seems as if Mr. Moore might  
own a small plantation in Tennes-  
see, and it appears to me like his  
sharecroppers might be worrying  
him about their Government money.  
I want to say that some of them  
need to be worried because of their  
scheming against the sharecropper.  
In some instances, Mr. Moore is  
right about the sharecropper sell-  
ing or disposing of the landlord's  
share of the farm products. Right  
on the other side, some of the land-  
lords will do the same thing and  
even worse.

The sharecropper in general has  
been mistreated so much until he  
has just about gotten to the place  
where he doesn't care for anything.  
In lots of cases, the landlord wants  
everything and does not care wheth-  
er the sharecropper gets anything  
or not. Mr. Moore was right when  
he said it was hard for a share-  
cropper to get a home after a law-  
suit. The reason for this is that  
he wants what is coming to him.  
Mr. Moore went far enough to say  
that one sharecropper could prove  
by his fellow sharecropper what he  
wanted, whether or not he knew  
anything about the case. I want to  
say that the sharecropper in gen-  
eral is just as honest as the land-  
lord, and in some cases more so.  
There are good and bad on both  
sides.

A. A. FOSTER.

Widener, Ark.

## FIELD HANDS GO TO COTTON FIELDS

## Company Has Aided In Relieving Tenancy

### Memphis Sends Pickers to Arkansas Farms.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Aug. 30.—(AP)  
Truck loaded with field hands  
rumbled across the Harahan  
bridge into the Arkansas cotton  
plantations early today, a sure  
sign it's cotton picking time in  
Dixie again.

The season is just getting start-  
ed. The peak picking time is sev-  
eral weeks off. At the height of  
the season an estimated 12,000 to  
15,000 pickers will leave Memphis  
daily and return after dusk.

W. W. Worthington, in charge  
of the farm placement division of  
the Memphis Public Employment  
Center, said 350 pickers were sent  
out yesterday, 675 today. The  
pickers said they are getting from  
50 to 60 cents a hundred pound  
for picking this year.

## Cotton Preachers Back Efforts To Organize Tenants

Little Rock, Ark.—The role of  
he country in combatting react-  
ion and organizing rural workers  
was discussed here at the first  
Cotton Preachers' Institute sponsored  
by the Commonwealth College.  
The sessions were attended by a  
group of sharecroppers and prea-  
chers, Negro and white.

Discussions were led by Claud  
Williams, director of Common-  
wealth; J. R. Butler, President  
of the Southern Tenant Farmers  
Union; Don Kobler and Winifred  
Chappel, of the Commonwealth  
faculty. Willard Upham, Secretary  
of the Religion and Labor Foun-  
dation, was guest lecturer.

The important role of the cotton  
preacher in organizing Southern  
Tenant farmers and sharecrop-  
pers in the labor movement was  
emphasized by various speakers  
who pointed out the potential dan-  
ger to America democracy from the  
South if the present efforts of the  
labor movement to penetrate this  
section be discontinued.

The ministry in the South must  
use its prestige and influence  
among the people on the side of  
progress. And the key to progress  
in the South today is labor organ-  
ization, it was decided.

Special to The Commercial Appeal  
BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Sept. 20.—  
For many years the negro tenant  
and the Delta have been considered  
as the only sure means of success  
for landowners in this area of Ar-  
kansas. This idea has been entire-  
ly changed by the experience that  
the Three States Lumber Company,  
of Blytheville, has had in setting  
up farmers as home owners.

Seventeen years ago, the Three  
States Lumber Company, under the  
direction of C. G. Smith, resident  
manager, began the subdivision of  
17,500 acres of land, selling it in  
small tracts to white persons only  
who wanted to own and operate a  
farm. About 450 farms were sold.  
Approximately 70 per cent were 40  
acre tracts, 25 per cent were 80  
acres and about 5 per cent were  
larger than 80 acres.

At that time, more than 13,000  
acres of this land was in the cut-  
over stage. The cleared land sold  
for 102 bales of cotton to be paid  
in 10 years. The uncleared land  
sold for 64 bales. On the uncleared land  
no payment was required for the  
first two years except to pay the  
taxes, and for the following eight  
years the payment was eight bales  
per year. This included all interest  
charges.

Seventy-five of these are at pres-  
ent paid for in full and the remain-  
der are on an average about 50 per  
cent paid.



Agriculture-1938

General.

Labor Conditions.

Sharecropper Songs

New Republic  
Possession

7-27-38

New York, N.Y.

Lee Wilkin owns  
The very deeds of law  
Proving without a flaw  
Just what he has of Arkansas.

—Owns  
A cotton dukedom county-wide,  
Clutching it with a fierce pride.

—Owns  
His railway bouncer bearing gun,  
His sheriff on Highway Sixty One,  
Who serve his court for human fate  
Upon his realm of real estate.

—Owns  
The qualm of duly shifting pelf  
To pay the county, thus himself,  
For use of all the needed tramps  
Assigned to Wilkin's labor camps.

—Owns  
The niggerknout with knotted thong  
To simply right the vagrant wrong.

—Owns  
The grim reminder left to see,  
Suspended rotten from a tree,  
Amid the penal pound.

—Owns  
The cringing tones,  
The muffled moans,  
The spirit downed.

—Owns  
The bones  
In the ground . . .

One private pyramid of topless worth,  
Deriving from the focal nave of earth,  
Including right to any ore and oil

Beneath the staked apparency of soil,  
Hence ranging broadward through the Seven Zones—  
He owns, he owns, he owns,  
He owns,  
He owns.

### Tractors Eat Kerosene

T-bones!  
T-bones!  
Lawd, cain't you heah me cry?  
Must Ah weah out mah knee-bones  
A-prayin' fuh T-bones?  
Git plumb outta breath,  
Git strangled to death  
On de T-bones in de sky?

Even no fatback,  
Lawd, braing dat back—  
Slick fuh makin' greens go down!

Cotton-pick machine  
Lives on kehosene:  
Human go'na have to chaw groun'!

### Sho' Nuff?

When pious cullid folkses  
Git put away in groun'  
Dey all go White to Heaben,  
Dey all go White to Heaben  
(Sho' nuff?)—  
White, Jesus-White to Heaben,  
No angel black er brown!

When Kluxers hang a Negra  
Who neba did no crimes,  
Dey all go Black to Hades,  
Dey all go Black to Hades  
(Sho' nuff?)—  
Black, Negra-Black to Hades  
To hang a hund'ed times!

H. H. LEWIS



# Many Activities Of Sharecroppers Threaten Southern Social Order

By JOHN ROBINSON

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Aug. 12—"The ers in Mississippi.

old order changeth, yielding place to the new."

That briefly sums up the social upheaval which the South is facing today and its realism is being fought out on three fronts that spell doom to the South as we know it.

The pace of the change in the area which President Roosevelt so aptly described as "The Nation's No. 1 Economic Problem" is likened to a keg of dynamite under the states from Virginia to Texas, from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, with its fuse already lit. The blast may be set off at any moment.

## Attacks Poll Tax

This charge of dynamite gathers its force from three potent allies: (1) The New Deal administration in Washington, quiet support to state-wide organizations to repeal the poll taxes and "grandfather" clauses that bar hundreds and thousands of the "submerged third" from exercising their political franchise.

(2) The Southern Tenant Farmers' union with its more than 40,000 members.

(3) The Sherwood Eddy Co-operative Farms, where black and white workers labor, study and settle their problems side by side and share alike in the results of their labors.

Backed by Washington and aimed at the 1940 elections, is an anti-poll tax drive all through the South. This movement hopes to release a class of voters, white and black sharecroppers and tenant farmers, that will overthrow the present dominant conservative ruling class in the South that still believes in the anit-bellum philosophy of the population aristocracy.

## Looks to 1940

The poll tax movement began shortly after Huey Long abolished the tax in Louisiana and was swept into power by the votes from the bayous and rice fields.

This movement is one of the most significant in the political development of the country and is causing many politicians sleepless nights.

It is hoped the movement will be crystalized by 1940 to play an important role in the Democratic convention. Among Race workers this will mean the coming into power of an exploited class, which has been denied suffrage since Reconstruction days.

## New Race Relation

The second ally, the Southern Tenant Farmers' union is exercising a wider influence on conditions in the South than most people realize. This S. T. F. U. is building up a new relationship and understanding between Race and white work-

The two races discuss their common economic problems on terms of equality in the meetings, and share in the office holdings. Among those who have a burning belief in the new South is John R. Butler, president of the S. T. F. U., "It's coming and it can't be stopped."

Butler outlined what it would mean to the South if the sharecroppers and tenant farmers could choose their own sheriffs, mayors and congressmen. The S. T. F. U. has its headquarters in Memphis and is an affiliate of the Committee for Industrial Organization.

Giving a practical demonstration of the new social order that will soon sweep the South is the Sherwood Eddy experimental farm located in Blivar county, Miss., the richest and most productive cotton-growing county in the world.

## Farm Experiment

On this farm live 28 white and black families and 20 young college students, Quaker members of the American Friends Service committee, coming from 15 states, who pay a \$50 tuition for the privilege of working for eight weeks at hard manual labor.

The 28 families were selected by the Southern Tenant Farmers' union from among sharecroppers evicted from Arkansas plantations. Five men, three white and two Race members, elected by the families, constitute a council that governs the farm. They plan the work and settle all problems arising on the collective enterprise.

The trustees in this experiment are Charles S. Johnson, sociologist at Fisk university; Rev. Reinhold Neibuhr, John Rust, co-inventor of the cotton picker; Rt. Rev. William Scarlett, Episcopal bishop of Missouri; Prof. William R. Amberson of the university of Maryland and Sherwood Eddy.

A five-year term is planned for the farm and if it pays off in small dividends for the 28 families it will be continued, if not it will be discontinued. Farm No. 1 has 2,138 acres, and another farm of 11 families, of 2,882 acres, is also undergoing a five-year term.



# Injustice Drove Her from the South

Now She Shows Other Women  
How to Get Most Out of Work.

By SARA NEELY

PHILADELPHIA — After raising eight bales of cotton on her farm and not clearing one penny from it, Mrs. Mattie Johnson decided that she was through.

Mrs. Johnson, 1908 N. Twenty-second Street, a tiny mother of eight children, is now one of the most potent forces in the organization of domestic workers in the city.

She was born in Greenwood, S.C., and came to Philadelphia about fifteen years ago. Her reasons for leaving, she says, are the experiences of countless sharecroppers still in the South.

"In 1921, my husband and I had two children and a farm. The work was hard and while I wasn't able to work, yet I had to. That year we raised and made eight bales of cotton, each weighing about 500 pounds.

"We also had plenty of corn, potatoes, and chickens; our hogs and cows were also in good condition. When the time for settlement with the boss, a white man, came, we didn't clear enough from the bales of cotton to get a change of bread," said Mrs. Johnson bitterly.

"I counted up our bill and found that we were due ninety dollars. So I went to him and said, 'Here's the figures.'"

"His answer was, 'Don't you know you're not allowed to dispute my figures.'"

## Decided to Leave

Said Mrs. Johnson, "I made up my mind then that if God spared me that would be the last time that I would work under those conditions. And we came to Philadelphia."

Mrs. Johnson has been a domestic worker. She knows the

problems of domestic workers and her greatest interest is to teach domestic workers how to apply for work and protect themselves.

The same injustice that brought her to Philadelphia from the farm she has found in the field of domestic service, she says. The only way for domestics to get decent wages and hours is for them to know the laws applying to them.

She tells how so many girls really don't know how to be hired. They don't ask what their hours of service will be or what they will be paid until they have done a day's work, in many cases.

In addition to her work with the Housewives' League, the organization of which she is president, she finds time to supervise her eight children, one of whom has finished William Penn High School and entered business college. Her ambition is that all her children will develop their abilities to their highest extent.

She never had a chance to go further than the fifth grade in school in the town near the farm on which she was born.

She worried her father to allow her to have more schooling, not realizing that it was impossible. At seven years of age she was working in the field, planting cotton and corn, helping to take care of the truck garden, milking cows and feeding the hogs.

This was the life of all her playmates. They went to school about four months if they had shoes.

Mrs. Johnson can do everything that is necessary in the home, but she says that she would rather be in the street. Her chief interests are better home conditions for our women, better housing, better working conditions, and

she does not object to picketing if it will accomplish these things.

She is a militant person and is at home on any platform setting forth her creed of living.

## Well Dressed

She is always conservatively well dressed, usually in dark blue. She would like to travel if she could afford to.

Playing around her feet was one of the tiniest white puppies I ever saw. He was about six weeks old and had no real name then. Her other pet was a white hen that was very much at home in the house, but had not made friends with the puppy.

She was much occupied in seeing that the two pets learned to like each other. It was easily seen that she loved flowers for those in evidence showed that she had what is commonly called "a hand with them."

Besides her work with the Housewives' League, she is active in the Baptist Church circles and her social relaxation is in socials.

## CHISELING LANDLORDS WILL LOSE PAYMENTS UNDER SOIL PROGRAM

## Change In Cotton Contracts To Be Construed By AAA As Noncompliance

## WOULD PROTECT TENANTS

## Traditional Share Distribution Is Mandatory

## OFFICIAL WORD AWAITED

## Department Of Agriculture Is Expected To Issue Clarifying Statement Within Few Days

## At Washington

Landlords who change cotton contracts so that tenants and sharecroppers will receive a smaller percentage of the crop this year than last will be penalized by being deprived of all benefits under the Agricultural Adjustment Act, it became known today.

Determination of the Department of Agriculture to take a strong position in the matter of changed contracts came to light after last week's conference at Jackson, Miss., of I. W. Duggan, director of the AAA cotton section, and state AAA committees from Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana.

## Law Is Construed

It is understood that Mr. Duggan instructed the state committees to reject all contracts in which the tenants' share of the crop is less than the amount they usually receive. Mr. Duggan was said to have been fortified in his position by an opinion of the solicitor of the Department of Agriculture, who held that the secretary was given the right under the act to refuse payment when the basis of dividing the crop is changed.

The Department of Agriculture is expected to issue a statement at Washington within the next few days outlining its position and also serving notice that landlords who make contracts contrary to AAA policy will be ruled as not complying with the program. Officials of the Department of Agriculture decline to comment on Mr. Duggan's conference or the probable text of the statement in advance of its release.

## Contract Copies Studied

The attention of the department was brought to the proposed alteration of contracts some weeks ago. Announcement was made then that the department considered them a violation of the spirit of the law. At the time copies of the proposed contracts were received in Washington, it appeared that circulation was confined principally to the Mississippi Delta and Louisiana. Despite protest of the department and hints that the contracts would not be acceptable, the practice was said to have continued.

It was charged that the contract originated with the Staple Cotton Discount Corp., lending agency of the Staple Cotton Growers' Association. The corporation denied authorship of the contract, but added that "if it should ever become the business of these concerns to formulate a landlord and tenant contract, as a basis for the production credit which was to be furnished the landlord for the joint

use of himself and tenant—if this service had to be performed, it would not be possible to render it on a higher plane nor in fairer terms than through those set out in the form referred to."

## Hostility To AAA

When it became evident that landlords intended to operate on a new contract, despite warning of the Department of Agriculture, more drastic steps were considered inevitable. In order to familiarize himself with the situation, Mr. Duggan went to Jackson and called in the AAA committees.

Reports received by Dr. Duggan at the conference went to the effect that there is considerable dissatisfaction in the Delta over the AAA Act. It was reported that sentiment in some sections was that planters would find it more profitable to change the basis to 60 per cent for the planter and 40 for the tenant than it will be to continue the 50-50 basis of division and receive benefit payments.

It is said that the department would not be surprised if the controversy should result in a general policy of noncompliance in the Delta. There is no penalty for noncompliance except loss of benefits and the two-cent tax on excess quota, which also applies to those who comply.

Possibility of friction with tenants, should they lose their benefits and receive a shorter division of the crop, is something else over which the department is said to be concerned.

## Farmers Driven Into Tenancy, Survey Shows

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16—A survey of some 3,000 farms in 40 states showed that one tenth of every eight had at one time been a farm owned by a tenant, according to William L. Austin, director of the Bureau of the Census.

Advancement from farmhand or tenant to ownership was found to be particularly difficult in the South, although census data previous to 1920 indicated that prior to the depression it had been achieved by a fairly large number.

## 20,000 Southern Cotton Pickers Win Sit-down Strike

MEMPHIS. — A sit-down strike involving 20,000 cotton pickers in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri, ordered by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, which has headquarters here, was announced this week.

The union asked that the picking rate be raised to \$1

per hundred pounds. Formerly, the rate was as low as 40 cents per hundred. Under the new agreement, the rates will vary from 85 cents and transportation to \$1



## LANDLESS PPOPLE

When the regular session of Congress adjourned late in the summer of 1937 most commentators looked upon its record as one of the most futile in years. Because, however, Congress that year enacted the Bankhead-Jones bill for the fighting of farm tenancy and the Housing bill. The advertiser has always regarded the work done as of enormous importance. Widespread ownership of property, which these two acts help make more generally possible, is the crying need of the day.

Commenting on the absentee ownership of farm lands, The Des Moines Register says that "in the South we can see factual proofs, instead of just theories, of the long run costs and dangers of the divorcement of farmers from land."

"All the while we must keep in mind that while our Iowa conditions are vastly better than those of the deep South, farm land here, too, for decades has been drifting away from owner-operators. Unless the trend is arrested here, the South presents a forecast of problems we shall face. It presents a warning, equally, of problems the nation will face."

"For differences between the regions, in this respect, are not so significant as similarities, in the light of history of this great social phenomenon of the separation of the people from land."

Then, referring to a recent comment in this paper, The Register writes of the explosions that absentee ownership have led to in other countries, and adds:

The Advertiser points to the stirrings of class consciousness in a region where farm production has been "proletarianized"—where the great mass of farm workers has no real stake in the land. It suggests the receptivity of such a population to the agitation of demagogues. It mentions frankly, by quotation, the struggles in our own South of the "tenants" to unionize.

It would be easy to say more, a great deal more, about that.

The sober reality is that, despite many checks on it in the South, including educational disadvantages and franchise restrictions, the agricultural "have nots" of that region are fermenting at last. The whole episode of Huey Long was a capitalizing of that ferment. Organizing of the semi-proletarianized "tenants" in some States (for instance Arkansas) has frightened landlords, naturally. Quite naturally, too, the resulting class consciousness and the conflict of interest have generated passion, led in some cases to violent repression, produced a denial of civil liberties in at least a few localities.

In short, all the bitterness, all the intolerance, all the want of understanding that have characterized our industrial front, where the property-

less war with the propertied, begins to appear today on part of our agricultural front.

And let there be no mistaking the significance.

If we detach the bulk of our agricultural population from land ownership or the hope of it in other sections, too, we shall have then elsewhere precisely what the South has—the same class consciousness, the same loss of social caste for propertyless farm workers, the same ferment and struggle, the same drift toward organization of farm workers, the same tense resistance, the same menace to individual capitalism in America and the same deep challenge to the workability of the democratic process.

The Register also points out that there is concentration of farm lands, like the concentration of economic power, is going on apace in the lettuce fields of California and in the beet fields of other fruit States. In Iowa the general movement is away from small farms.

"This trend is but part of the whole broad movement of industrialization," the Des Moines editor rightly asserts. "There is little reason to assume that it will reverse itself automatically. . . .

"Every nation in the past that has permitted urbanization to go the full route which has shaken loose substantially ALL of its people from land ownership, which has set a large majority of propertyless against a minority of propertied, has paid in disintegration."

Happily America has seen the hand-writing on the wall, and has consciously set out to reverse a dangerous natural movement. The task is not an easy one, nor will it be accomplished soon. For these reasons the fight against tenancy and concentration of ownership must be even more vigorously pursued in the future than it has been in the past.

### REPRIEVE FOR THE COTTON PICKER

The black and sometimes bony fingers of the South's cotton-pickers are not yet to be supplanted by the steel claws of the machine in this drudgery, as has been promised or threatened, as you like it, when the device created by the Rust brothers, which was thought to be the last word in mechanical cotton-picking, will not do the work in a satisfactory way. The cotton is found, after sufficient test, to be left in such shape as to be bad, if not unfit for spinning, and the machine picks up leaves, stems, trash and whatever else may be within the area of its suctioning jaws.

So it is clear that the Negro cotton-picking population of the South will have its job in the future, unthreatened by the invasion of the iron and steel monster which has menaced their economic future.—Charlotte (N. C.) Observer.

## 500 PICKERS RETURN TO MISSOURI FIELDS

Sitdowners In Three States Grow To 4000, Mitchell Says

Approximately 500 cotton pickers returned to fields in Mississippi County, Mo., yesterday at higher wages while the sitdown strikers participating in the strike in three states grow to 4000, H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, said last night.

Mr. Mitchell said that 1500 pickers were out in St. Francois County, Ark., but reports from there last night, however, said that the pickers went back to the fields yesterday morning.

Mr. Mitchell said that only 1500 strikers were out in Mississippi County, Mo., against 2000 on Monday. They received from 85 to 90 cents a hundred where transportation is furnished and \$1 where they pay their own transportation expenses, he said.

Approximately 1000 other pickers in other sections of Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma were reported on strike by Mr. Mitchell.

## Sit-Down Staged In 4 States

Supervised By Southern Tenant Farmers' Union

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—A sit-down strike under the leadership of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, affecting approximately 20,000 cotton pickers in four states, resulted in increased wages late last week, the strikers.

States involved in the strike were Tennessee, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri.

A strike leaflet calling on cotton pickers to demand \$1.00 per hundred pounds for picking the cotton crop was widely distributed in the Eastern Arkansas area.

According to the handbill "wages for picking this crop of cotton are 40c, 50c, 60c and 85c per hundred.

Cotton is selling about 8c per pound plus the government subsidy which makes it worth 10c per pound. Cotton picking wages must therefore be in line with the selling price of cotton." Union and non-union pickers were urged to sit down in their homes and wait until prices reached a dollar per hundred before picking another boll. The circular was issued by a Wage Committee of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, a C. I. O. affiliate.

J. R. Butler, President of the sharecroppers organization stated that he was calling upon the Department of Justice to enforce the Byrnes law which forbids the transportation of workers across state lines during a strike. According to Butler some 3,000 or more pickets leave Memphis each morning for nearby Arkansas plantations.

Butler further stated that no attempt would be made to picket cotton plantations at this time and that members of the union had been instructed to stay in their homes and away from the field until their demand was met. He stated also that due to the extremely low prices being offered throughout the south for picking cotton he expected many cotton pickers even in states not yet organized by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union to follow their lead and join the movement to force wages to a higher level.



# THE SOUTH TODAY

## The Share Cropper Still Waits

By HAROLD PREECE

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contributes regularly to numerous national periodicals and for years has served as correspondent for various press services, lives in Austin, Texas, and is now folklore editor of the Federal Writers' Project in this state. Mr. Preece writes of what he believes must be done to end the farm tenancy problem.

The share cropper remains the problem of the South. There is a widespread feeling among the impoverished tenants that all the mountainous efforts of Congress toward relief produced only a mouse. This is the opinion of many other citizens who realize that the tenant situation underlies every phase of Southern life.

"The present measure is like pouring water through a sieve," a country banker said to me recently. "With ten million dollars having to be stretched over the entire nation, it is doubtful if a dozen families in our county will receive any benefit." Our county committee has tried to aid the croppers. But with an 18,000,000-bale crop and 8-cent price, we can do very little until the Federal government raises the ante."

### Need Genuine Relief Bill.

There is a mood of sullen desperation in some of the cotton counties which I have visited. Unless a genuine relief bill is passed, the majority of the croppers must continue to subsist for an indefinite number of years on a diet of fat-back and black-eyed peas. Under the provisions of the recent act, a maximum of 2,375 tenant farmers will be assisted the first year. Farm and Ranch, a Dallas agricultural journal, declared in a recent issue:

"It is a foregone conclusion that \$10,000,000 will not buy a large number of farms and equip them, and that the few farms thus purchased will go to selected tenants on terms and conditions, more as a matter of experiment than anything else. Should the experiment prove worth while, the government will continue its appropriations, but until then there is little use of making application to be listed as a prospective owner under government supervision.

### Guinea Pig Experiment.

Clearly the tenant situation demands something more substantial than guinea pig experiment upon a few selected individuals. We are confronted with a grave national emergency; the only answer of our national legislators to that emergency has been a vexatious fiddling while people are starving. In line with the new program, the Rural

Resettlement Administration has been rechristened the "Farm Security Administration." This goes to show, perhaps that there is nothing in a name.

True, the bill provides that \$25,000,000 may be allotted for relief the second year, a maximum of \$50,000,000 for each succeeding year. One must bear in mind, however, that these sums are merely authorized. Congress must make annual appropriations if one penny per annum trickles down to the most ragged and malaria-stricken tenant. Can we doubt that every attempt to appropriate money for share-cropper relief will be contested in furious and long-winded parliamentary battles? Under the present ridiculously ineffective measure, not over 20,000 tenant families throughout the country, including the South, would be benefited.

### Tenancy Increasing

Meanwhile, tenancy is increasing at the rate of 40,000 families per year. For every family given the doubtful security of the present scheme, four or five other families

to survive as independent growers.

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace has estimated that it would take \$160,000,000 even to restore the holdings of dispossessed small farmers. It is very probable that many who have become tenants since 1929 will never again cultivate an acre of land that they may call their own. There will continue to be a fanfare of publicity about the evils of tenancy since any ruling party needs votes to maintain its power. But how the tenant shall live, under what administrative policies he may find security—these questions remain unanswered at Washington or any state capital.

### Labor-Saving Devices

During all of this confusion, the shadow of the cotton-picking machine continues to lengthen across the South. The laws of exchange will not permit the Rust brothers to limit the use of their machine to cotton co-operatives manned by tenants. Only a Federal monopoly on these machines plus a gigantic Federal colonization program would enable the idealistic inventors to realize their dream of self-sufficient little commonwealths in the Cotton Belt.

Recently the Works Progress Administration estimated conservatively that the new invention would displace 500,000 manual laborers during the next ten years. "Successful one and two-row machines might, in perhaps ten years, be applied to an upper limit of about half of the present cotton acreage and displace a maximum of 2,000,000 hand pickers for the picking season of about forty work days," the statement reads in part. "The displacement of about half a million pickers within a period of five to ten years appears more probable, however."

"Although such a displacement might not add appreciably to the total volume of unemployment for the nation as a whole it would aggravate the insecurity of the tenants and share croppers in the localities where the picker was used. Along with the introduction of a successful picker, moreover, would go an acceleration of the shift from a tenancy to mechanized pre-harvesting operations (such as cotton chopping), both of which would further add to this insecurity."

To complicate our regional problem, we are witnessing fresh outbreaks of violence against share-cropper organization. Leaders of these groups are being assaulted and beaten, sometimes on the steps of county courthouses. One of those recently assaulted was the Rev. W. T. Blackstone, member of the president's committee on farm tenancy. This inexcusable terrorism simply invites retaliation and thus hinders the solution of an explosively delicate problem.

### Resettlement Communities

I think we are beginning to realize that Southern communities must begin working toward a solution of this problem on their own initiative. Within the environs of every town there are large sections of uncultivated land. Why could not these tracts be leased or rented cheaply for resettlement purposes by local authorities? Certainly, it is cheaper to make a tenant self-sustaining through local effort than to maintain him and his family forever on community relief rolls.

Needless to say, I am not advocating any system of glorified poor farms. As rapidly as possible, these tenant settlements should become self-governing municipalities with modern conveniences. Particular attention should be paid to the education of the tenants' children. Opportunity should also be given the individual tenant to purchase the land which he tills. The croppers should be made to feel that they are responsible American citizens rather than the outcasts of Southern society.

While the basis of these colonies would be agricultural, the emphasis should be placed upon crop diversification. If I may use an old term the South is cotton poor. One of the worst faults of the plantation system, I believe, is that practically all of the fertile land is given over to the production of cotton. Certainly, the tenants should be encouraged to grow their own vegetables. There should be systems of strict accounting in place of the present haphazard system of "furnish," which leads the tenant up a perpetual blind alley.

### Perplexing Problems

Of course, there are good people who are convinced that the tenant is naturally shiftless and hopelessly dependent. But Col. Lawrence Westbrook of the Farm Security Administration has pointed out that children living in the scattered government settlements showed better school records than the children of neighboring farmers. Intelligence and initiative are not absolute qualities; they generally reflect environmental conditions and opportunity.

Naturally, legislation will be necessary in some states to enable communities to undertake local re-habilitation. Very possibly there will be the need for state co-ordinating agencies which must not be permitted to develop into bureaucracies. These are administrative problems which must be shifted and weighed very carefully.

These suggestions may not afford any permanent solution of the ten-cropper question. Indeed, there will be a lasting adjustment only when the South ceases to rely so pathetically upon cotton for the major portion of its income. But, at least, the

plan offers some immediate prospect of relieving human needs, something which all the squabbling in congress has failed to do.

## On The Editor's Table

### TEN MILLION PROBLEMS

One reason why all the schemes advanced for solving the problem of the Southern sharecropper have amounted to nothing is the fact that they draw on the assumption that there is some other man.

Some of these schemes were perfectly logical and a few were apparently sensible enough as abstract propositions; but to date they have all gone to wreck, and the snag that has ripped the bottom out of them is the fact that the Southern sharecropper doesn't think in the same fashion as, for example, a Maine potato grower or an Iowa corn planter.

The reason is simple. The Southerner has lived all his life under a crazy economic setup. It dates from the period immediately after the Civil War, when the South, drained of capital, faced the necessity of somehow producing a crop without any cash outlay. It was then that the crop lien system was instituted—a scheme whereby the farmer borrows enough to live on while he is cultivating his crop, giving the unmaturing and, in the beginning, he unplanted crop as security for the loan.

This means that the agriculture of the region, in addition to the other burdens that lie on all agriculture, must continually pay interest on borrowed money. It means, also, human nature being what it is, that the percentage of bad debts is high, which forces the interest rate on the rest high enough to cover the losses. This terrific drain is one of the main reasons why the poorest people in the country live on what was originally the richest land.

But when a man has been born and bred under one economic system and has never known any other, or even that any other exists, the job of changing his mental attitude toward that system is about as difficult as any task that can be imagined. It can be done, but not by schemes hatched in Washington—or in Richmond, Atlanta or New Orleans. It must be done by working with individual farmers and bringing them over, one by one. In short, the farm problem of the South isn't one problem; it is 10 or 12 million problems, and they must be solved in 10 or 12 million ways.—Baltimore Evening Sun.



HAROLD PREECE



# Comrade 'X' Here From South. Tells of Work in Sharecrop Unit Under Nazi-Like Terror

She and Her Negro Friends Meet in Her Shack to Study Marx and Lenin  
by Light of an Old Oil Lamp; Recruited 20 Others

By Carl Carter  
(Daily Worker Harlem Bureau)

Defenders of Liberty! Progressives of America! Meet Comrade X.

Comrade X is an American woman with a history as old and a claim to American citizenship more righteous by far than many a member of the D. A. R.

But we dare not use her name. Comrade X is anxious to get here because she is a Negro, and back to the South. "There's two because she comes from and has preachers in the next town," she to return to a Southern State said, "who want me to come over which she calls the 'Fascist' and do some organizing."

Town. "The school has given me a clearer view of things," she con- never worked at anything else in turned, "Now, when I talk about all her thirty-six years. She hap- things I feel safer about what I'm pens to be in New York because talking about."

she was elected to and the Comrades in Germany, perhaps Communist Party ten-week full more than anywhere else, car time Negro Training School. fully understand the work done

## EVER-PRESENT TERROR

Back in her home town Comrade X made quite a record in recruiting. Operating under conditions which can be likened to those in Nazi Germany, she recruited 20 persons into the Communist Party in six months.

"But the white bosses don't know anything about our Unit," beamed Comrade X, "I've been able to keep it all secret."

The Unit meets in her "broken down" farm shack every Tuesday night. Sometimes one or two of the comrades are absent because "when you work late cropping, it's kind hard to walk five or seven miles to a meeting." By the light from the "old oil lamp" they study such things as the Communist Manifesto.

## AN UNDERSTATEMENT

Comrade X was handicapped in the Training School because she couldn't read very well; she never had much of an education. "But Comrade Edna helped me," she said, and I made out all right."

That was an understatement. She did more than all right. She won first prize for making the most outstanding progress.

of a union card is enough to warrant a lynch mob.  
**COTTON PICKER  
SEEN AS AID TO  
IDLE WORKERS**

MEMPHIS, Sept. 8—(ANP)—A revolutionary idea in economics and one which it is claimed will be of great value to idle cotton pickers of the South was outlined last week in a statement by John and Mack Rust, famed co-inventors of a mechanical cotton picker, development of which has long held the attention of the nation's cotton industry.

The Rusts announced formation of the Rust Foundation, through which they propose to apply a large part of their personal profits on the invention to uplift agricultural workers of the South. A charter of incorporation, they said, would be sought at Nashville.

In accordance with their plan the Rusts will try out a 10-to-1 experiment, under which they will limit their own incomes from the mechanized pickers to ten times that received by the lowest-paid employe. They could earn up to \$8,320 each year and still pay the lowest-paid the experienced wage minimum of 40 cents an hour decreed by the Wages and Hours Bill.

## Blessing Instead of Curse

"We think the idea of limiting the spread of income to ten to one would make an interesting experiment," they said. In addition, all income which they personally realize from their invention, over and above the limited income set for themselves, would go to the Foundation in an effort to make the mechanical cotton picker "a blessing instead of a curse" to displaced labor.

As set forth in the articles of incorporation, the Rust Foundation: "would aid in rehabilitation of disemployed sharecroppers and farm laborers of the cotton-growing states, and carry on experiments, research and educational work with a view to finding a permanent solution to our problems of poverty and unemployment and above all, to preserve and extend our civil liberties."

That the philanthropy of the Rust brothers may eventually evolve into working conditions in the South was indicated in their statement: "We have never intended to use our invention for making money but to better the condition of southern workers."

THE COTTON PICKERS OF THE SOUTHERN states suffered only a few casualties as a result of their successful strike a few weeks ago, but these made up in severity what they lacked in numbers. Last week two men and a woman, all Negroes, were convicted on charges of "night-riding" and conspiracy. The two men were sentenced to two, the woman to four, years in jail by the Circuit Court of Arkansas in Mississippi County, a region of large plantations. The charge of night-riding was based on the fact that they distributed leaflets during the strike; their conspiracy lay in their violation of an Arkansas statute which forbids the gathering of three or more persons during a strike. The woman drew the heavier sentence because she is an official of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union. One of the most significant aspects of the case, however, is that the prosecuting attorney, in the course of the trial, challenged the right of the C. I. O. to operate in Arkansas. The conviction of night-riding, which amounts to a conviction for distributing leaflets, clearly violates the Supreme Court decision in the Lovell case. The verdicts will be appealed. We hope that public opinion all over the country will rally to the project of bringing Arkansas into the Union. The cotton pickers are doing what they can, but they cannot do it alone.

## Opportunity Knocks

Changing a 90-cents-a-day Southern farm laborer into a three-or-four-dollars-a-day industrial worker is going to add tremendously to Southern purchasing power. And this fact, points out Donald Comer, is another legitimate reason for urging national manufacturers to establish branch plants in the South.

And why shouldn't a manufacturer selling to Southern consumers place part of his production in a Southern plant if he expects to continue to serve the Southern market?

Some manufacturers already are taking advantage of opportunities to establish themselves in the South and to grow with it.

Those who do not sense the trend which was indicated in the recent Fortune survey may awake suddenly and find themselves at definite disadvantage.



TENANCY IN GEORGIA  
TERMED 'ALARMING'

Oklahoman Asks Farm Purchase Aid in Senate Speech.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—(AP)—The south's tenant farmers—who in Georgia till 65.5 per cent of all farms—would be aided in purchasing their own land under a bill outlined to the senate today by Senator Lee, Democrat, Oklahoma.

Lee's measure, an amendment to the Bankhead-Tones act, would authorize long term, low-interest loans on farms which the government would encourage tenants to buy from absentee owners.

In what he termed "alarming figures," Lee told the senate Georgia led all southern states in farm tenancy. He added the percentage in Arkansas was 60, in Oklahoma 61.2, and in Texas 61. He said the average in the south was 53.5 per cent.

He compared southern tenancy with that for the United States as a whole, which he asserted was 42.1 per cent.

The bill would provide for appointment of a county committee which would receive listings of all farms which owners desired to sell to tenants. Applications from tenants likewise would be filed with the committee. After approval, the would-be owner would have the privilege of choosing a farm on which the government would insure a mortgage. No down payment would be required, but the government would retain a lien on the crops until 10 per cent of the purchase price was paid. Interest would be 3 per cent, and the payment period 25 years.

# TENANT FARMER TELLS TERROR IN KENNESAW

Sharecropper Good  
At "Figurin'" Goes  
Thru Hard Experience

57-Year Old Victim Talks  
From His Bed; Suffering  
From Contusion of Brain

By CLIFF MACKAY  
(SNS Managing Editor)

A tale of stark terror, intimidation and virtual peonage that lay hidden deep in the back hills of the Kennesaw mountain region some fifteen miles out of Marietta, came to light this week as the chief victim, a Morehouse graduate, prepared to take the case to legal authorities.

His brain befogged by a blow to the temple, allegedly inflicted with a wrench in the hands of his former white landlord, the victim, 57-year-old John Mathey Guthry, lay flat on his back in his cabin on Kennesaw, Route 1, as he told the story Saturday.

## ONLY THE CLIMAX

The brutal attack, Mr. Guthry explained, was the climax of a whole series of injustices that began in the spring when the white landlord discovered he had entered into a sharecropping agreement with a "n——" that was too good at figurin'."

It was then that Mr. Guthry moved his family of six into the miserable, dank crate-box hut located on the edge of the 150-acre Lovinggood farm. Under the terms of the contract he was to farm fifteen acres on a 50-50 basis. Ten acres were proportioned for cotton and five acres for corn.

But no ordinary sharecropper was Tenant Guthry. He had had an opportunity to go to school. In fact when he was a student at the old Atlanta Baptist College, which later became Morehouse, he was so good in mathematics that the late Dr. John Hope often told students, long after Guthry had graduated, of his wizardry with figures.

## GUTHRY DIFFERENT

It wasn't long after Mr. Guthry had planted his cotton and corn,

until Planter Lovinggood found that here was one tenant, who was much different from those who had formerly worked his land.

The landlord acted quickly. First he took back his cotton land, refusing to divide as was called for in the contract. He took the corn land from the elder Guthry and turned it over to Guthry's 24-year-old son, who was not quite so apt with figures.

He then decided that Mr. Guthry had better not make any debts with the plantation store; and ended up by advising the too smart tenant to get a job elsewhere.

For awhile Mr. Guthry did odd work about the farm for the magnificent sum of 75c a day. To supplement this wage on which he was to feed six mouths, Mrs. Guthry was given the opportunity to do the Lovinggood family wash.

There were five members of the Lovinggood family and for cleaning up all this dirty linen, Mrs. Guthry was to receive forty cents a week, or an average of eight cents per person.

Mrs. Guthry objected, contending that 40 cents was not enough for all that work. "Do that or get from here," was the alternative she was offered. Meanwhile, Mr. Guthry lost his 75c a day job.

Desperate, his family without food, Mr. Guthry appealed to Cobb county WPA authorities. He got a job as yardman for the recreational center sponsored by the WPA at the Marietta High school. His pay was 30 cents an hour for an eight-hour day.

This comparatively small wage, appeared as an excellent pay to Farmer Guthry. He was able to clothe his family better than ever before. His children got shoes, Mrs. Guthry bought a dress.

Everything appeared to be moving peacefully. But his family had

not figured on Landlord Lovinggood, whose action reached his name.

## THREATENED SEVERAL TIMES

Several times he encountered Guthry and threatened to get him discharged. It seemed that Mr. Lovinggood was not particularly anxious for Mr. Guthry to work on his farm, but he did not want him to work for the WPA at such good wages, either.

A week ago, the now "prosperous" Mr. Guthry was stopped once again as he trudged home from his WPA job. The usual argument between former landlord and tenant began anew. But this time, the tenant chose not to listen, kept walking.

Mr. Guthry here is not sure exactly what happened. He does remember being hit on the left side of the head with a heavy blunt instrument and falling into the road.

He woke up later in the Marietta hospital. After four days in the hospital, where he was treated for a contusion of the brain, he was removed to his Kennesaw home. Another doctor examined him and advised his wife that he would be flat on his back for another seven weeks, possibly eight.

## MOVES FROM FARM

He since moved his wife and children from the Lovinggood farm to the home of his wife's father, which is also located in the Kennesaw section.

A wife and five children, again in desperate circumstances, are left without support, while the father, whose sole crime was that he "could figure too well," remains unable to provide for them.

Mrs. Annie Guthry, the wife, revealed Saturday, plans to start prosecution of her husband's assault on two fronts. A warrant will be asked for Lovinggood's arrest. Mrs. Guthry said and suit would be filed in the Cobb county superior court seeking damages



# Farmers Ask PWA For Lint Pickers

## Laborers to Be Released to Gather Cotton Crop

The Georgia State Employment Service here yesterday requisitioned the local WPA office for 30 cotton pickers for temporary work on a farm near Forsyth today. *9-15-38*

H. P. Derry, district employment supervisor of the federal agency, said he would release Negro WPA laborers for the job, but declared they would be returned to relief work as soon as the lint harvesting was completed. *WPA*

Bibb county farmers have not asked the state service to supply pickers, implying the cotton crop is not exceptionally heavy here.



## Labor Conditions.

# Plight of Louisiana Tenant Farmers Is Declared Worse Than European Peasants

## Unending Debt System Keeps Blacks in State of Destitution

### Evils of Commissary System Told

NATCHITOCHES, La.—(ANP)—A grim state of woe is the picture of the poverty-stricken Negro sharecroppers who live on plantations situated along the banks of the Red river by Natchitoches parish. Plagued with unending debts claimed by the plantation owners, and ravished by exorbitant prices they must pay undershirt. Some are limited to for groceries advanced them by groceries they may get each week. the commissary store, there is an Rural slums virtually reek with existence worse than European disease because they are denied even the bare necessities of life.

Even though growers have received each year from eight to ten cents per pound for cotton, and the government has paid them for soil conservation, the croppers in many instances have received no cash for at least yearly settlements amounting to \$10 to \$15. Accompanying the measly cash paid them is a slip showing a balance due the landlords for debts he claims they owe.

Now and then a tenant gathers enough courage to ask for a settlement. Usually he is told, "The others called it even. You had better, too, if you don't want to be turned out on the road."

Tricked of their cash earnings these humble peasants are forced to accept the weekly apportionments granted them at the landlord's store for which they pay prohibitive prices.

Here are a few examples from actual reports of how they are overcharged for their purchases. They pay 5 cents for soap that sells two for a nickel, 75c for syrup that sells 40c per gallon, 20c per pound for coffee that sells 15c a pound and flour ordinarily 75c is sold at \$1.

On one plantation tenants were refused kerosene or lamps. Another allowed each member of the family one of each of the following articles: a work shirt, overalls, work shoes and a winter

rending, because they get when they make application for work. It is the aim of the federal administration to aid all cotton farmers who fail to average certain amounts from their crops. Through WPA it is intended that they be given a chance to make up what they lack towards that average. Whites get jobs, but Negroes are ushered into the canefields where they profit nothing because of the low wage unskilled workers receive.

Crop reduction, low prices and the high cost of production literally bled cotton growers in Louisiana this year. Unfair practices by landlords are also weapons that hinder the tenants in making profits from their crops. The landlord hauls the cotton to and from the gin, even though the tenants have their own teams, and charges them for transportation. The landlord also collects the money received for the cotton, deducts his rent and gives the Negro tenants what he pleases. Besides these handicaps, the tenants must buy and maintain their own equipment and support large families.

In an attempt to overcome these difficulties that come year after year, a few have sought the aid of FSA by securing loans. This has been a failure because the crops do not pay enough to care for the debt, and subsequently they lose the few possessions already theirs. A typical example is given in the case of a tenant cotton farmer who borrowed \$400 from FSA; his crop sold for \$300.05. After paying \$100 to his landlord for rent, and \$200 to FSA on his loan, he had made no profit and was still in debt.

The failure of national agencies to reach these Negroes is partly responsible for the setbacks that occur. A cotton parity on five bales of cotton, and other working agreements are in the making to be presented at the next session of Congress. Unless some remedy is found, the cotton industry in the South is destined to fall.

## WPA JOBS ONLY FOR WHITES

### Negro Farmer in Louisiana's St. Landry Parish Find Themselves With Nothing To Do.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 17 —(By Richard H. Thomas for ANP) — Scourged with Debt Because of high produc-

tion costs, poverty stricken, piteous Negro cotton farmers in St. Landry parish are denied a chance to work on WPA projects. As white cotton farmers are being given jobs on WPA, Negroes are automatically shifted to the sugar cane fields to harvest the crop.

"There are no projects for the Negro. There are projects only for the whites. In the bitter heart-



Agriculture-1938  
Labor Conditions.

Mississippi.

COTTON PICKING TIME  
REDUCES WPA ROLLS

Nearly 3000 Dropped In  
Mississippi

JACKSON, Miss., Sept. 8.—(AP)  
—Nearly 3000 Mississippi WPA  
workers have been temporarily re-  
leased to begin cotton picking, the  
WPA has announced.

State Director Roland Wall said  
more workers, who are experienced  
in farm work, will be dropped from  
the WPA rolls during the cotton  
picking season if they are needed.

"I have instructed all WPA of-  
fices to make no new assignments  
of workers in rural areas where  
labor is needed and to release  
workers whose previous employ-  
ment records show they have had  
farm experience," Mr. Wall said.

"If necessary," he added, "we will  
close down projects to make this  
labor available. It has been our  
policy in the past and will continue  
to be in the future to co-operate  
with any employers who need farm  
labor and to take advantage of ev-  
ery opportunity to place workers in  
outside employment."

Thus far, demands for cotton  
pickers have been light. The crop  
in the Delta, where thousands of  
pickers are recruited each year, has  
been slow in fruiting and the har-  
vest season will not be open in full  
swing for a week or 10 days.



# Agriculture-1938

## Labor Conditions

### CALLS 'EM SHIFTLESS FOR SHARECROPPERS

Sharecroppers Never Look Ahead, Sledge, Miss., Man Says Moore's  
Says Mississippi Employer Conscience Hurts Him

To The Commercial Appeal:

I'm sorry, Mr. Jim Moore, but you missed a few points concerning the sharecropper and his landlord.

The sharecropper never looks ahead or saves one dime for a "rainy day." If one of his family is taken ill, he expects the landlord to furnish him with a doctor and medicine. They even get in brawls and cut one another to the extent of having to land in a hospital. The landlord sends them to pay the bills and furnishes transportation, which in the end amounts to no less than \$100. During this time, while feeding his family and having his crop worked, at the end of the year his account is about three times as much as it should have been. He didn't clear any money, the landlord took every thing. In actual figures, he still owes \$40 to \$100 that will never be paid, for now he is dissatisfied and moves.

There is no way of knowing just what he cost his landlord through waste. They leave tools, even part of their team's gear scattered over the field. Always tearing up implements because a wrench is not used in time. In the Spring of the year you can repair all screens on the house and before the Summer is over, most all the wire is kicked off the doors and looks like cats have been thrown through the windows.

They are never able to see anything that should be done; they wait until you are there to tell them and stay on the job until it is finished. On a farm there are plenty days that weather conditions keep one out of the fields; but there is always work to be done. These days could be spent very usefully and beneficially to the tenant around the house, patching a fence, cleaning out a ditch, building hen nests, etc. No, they sit around or gad about until work time in the field again. I wonder how many ever noticed the woodpile around a tenant's house. Occasionally you may find one week's supply ahead, but not often. They have the use of saws, axes, wagon and teams furnished by their landlord free, then have to be "made" to get their own personal wood.

I had better stop, for I could fill a page from a very short time of experience. I do want to extend an invitation to some of those "white collar know-it-alls" to come down to earth a while and live with us. Please don't all come at once, though.

MRS. L. W. A.

Belzoni, Miss.

To The Commercial Appeal:

In the editorial of April 17, one Mr. Jim Moore of Union City, Tenn., gave the sharecropper a sure enough cussin' in a mild form. He accused them of being ignorant, lazy, thieving, sorry, and what have you. I don't think that Mr. Moore gave them justice in the least. There have been and will be as long as the old world stands, what you call the underdog, none other than the suffering class of people.

Mr. Moore hasn't sense enough to know that if it weren't for the sharecropper, he would have no work. No, God bless his honest soul, he is a "Land Lord." He is hokey-dokey. He won't do anything wrong, when all the time he is scheming some way to take every penny possible from the sharecropper. It is true that there are sorry and dishonest sharecroppers. But what kind of a landlord is Mr. Moore to work them, take what they make, and then cuss them?

Or is Mr. Moore a landlord? From his letter, I would say that he is a renter, renting about 60 or 80 acres and that everything he owns is in the Government loan and he is about to lose it. He is so dad-blasted sorry he can't find one of the sharecroppers to live in his house and make a crop. So he has spite at all of them.

Mr. Moore even grouches about them working on the WPA, when they have only turned to this work because they can't find land to farm, due to the cotton programs. If Mr. Moore could get himself a white collar job on the WPA, he would take it, yet he grouches about the common labor.

Here's hoping that Mr. Moore reads the letter in the edition of April 24, written by Mr. O. E. Jones of Little Rock, Ark. Then maybe he will see and understand that all the crooked, ignorant and sorry sharecroppers are nothing more than his conscience hurting him.

JACK WHEELER.

Sledge, Miss.

## Another Side To Tenantry

### Mississippian Says Sharecroppers Recognized As Necessary There

To The Commercial Appeal:

In reply to a letter published in your paper of Sunday, April 17, written by Jim Moore of Union City, Tenn., I am very much surprised that a paper of your standing would print such unfair and untrue statements as he wrote concerning sharecroppers as ignorant, dishonest and thieving people who make their living by beating the landlord out of everything they possibly can.

In this section of Mississippi, the sharecroppers are recognized as being a necessary part of the community in which they live and they carry their part of every load and are as honest and respected as landowners.

Mr. Moore made remarks that are very contradictory when he stated that sharecroppers have a good knowledge of law, in one place, and then followed it up by saying that they are so ignorant that they cannot understand anything about the speeches made by Government men concerning their crops. He said that tenants went to hear these speeches to find out how to get their Government money. In a sense this is true, but only to about the same extent that the owners do. They attend these meetings for the same reasons the landowners do, and that is mainly for the purpose of understanding the Government program better and how to make ends meet. These meetings are of as much interest to sharecroppers as to owners.

Mr. Moore said that the sharecroppers make frequent trips to the county agent's office for the purpose of getting their Government checks. They do, and so do the owners. It is their own business, and the Government fixes the checks so that the owners cannot get all of the money and hog the little man out of his. If lots of landlords were to get the tenants' checks, they would never be heard of by the tenant. He also stated that as a rule the croppers get as much money out of their landlords as they possibly can and then pay back as little as they can get by with. In this state you very rarely hear of the tenant beating the owner out of anything. It is generally the opposite if there is any beating done. If there is any trouble, it is generally because the landlord

tries to take advantage of the tenant in some way. But most of the time, they get along well together, and I think it might be the owner's fault if the same is not true in Tennessee. I know of no tenants who don't have their gardens and truck patches, provided the owner permits them to use the land, and they never object here.

He writes that tenants are a "vicious, dishonest class with no sense of appreciation," and that they will stop at nothing to get as much as they can for nothing. I know that, as a rule, sharecroppers are as honest, if not more so, than the average owners. Moore knows as well as I do that the average tenant always tries to be as fair as possible in his dealings with the owner. And if he is given a fair deal by the owner, he generally shows his appreciation by doing the very best he can to satisfy the owner.

He does not seem to think that tenants have the same right to the due processes of law as the owners do. It is a very good idea for the tenant to have a slight knowledge of the law because the owners have far more opportunities to beat the croppers out of their money than the tenants do to beat them.

A big part of the time the owner sells the tenant's crop for him, and if the tenant isn't careful, he might not get full value for his crop. The owner can make out a fake slip and present it to the tenant in settlement and he might never know the difference. I personally know of one instance where the owner sold the crop and got blank sales slips and made out a slip for several dollars less than the original. There was suspicion in this case, and the tenant went to the buyer and got a duplicate slip of the actual sale and brought it and showed it to the owner. He readily admitted what he had done. He said he intended to buy the tenant a Christmas present, and with the tenant's own money. Does Moore call this honesty?

Here is an exact quotation from Moore's letter: "When a sharecropper gets too lazy or too vicious and can't get a home, he gets on the WPA, where he works as little as possible, but draws good pay. He stays a WPA worker, for that spoils him for work."

The reason there are lots of tenant farmers on the WPA is because landowners who foresaw the present farm program turned off good hands and gave the remaining ones full crops of the restricted commodity. This violates the spirit of the letter of the Farm Bill by knocking deserving tenants out of homes, thereby giving them their choice of getting on WPA or starving.

AUBREY AVERY.

Eupora, Miss.

## Came To Aid Of Tenants

### New Deal Made Farm Owners Mad, Says Mississippian

To The Commercial Appeal:

Answering Jim Moore's letter from Union City, Tenn.: Mr. Moore, you landowners liked sharecroppers as long as you could treat them like slaves. You landowners never keep books. You just walk over the crop when the cotton opens and if you think it will make 10 bales you tell him he owes 10 bales, and then you go back and decide he is going to make 15 bales. You tell him you made an error, he owes 15 bales.

You landowners have been on the cheat and swindle with sharecroppers for years, and in 1934 you were paid to plow up cotton and divide with the sharecropper. Most of the sharecroppers didn't do anything. Some of your kind never plowed up until after the cotton was picked, and in 1935 went in to contract to cut your cotton and rented your land to the Government, drew the rent, and never filled any of your contract with the Government. The landowners are perfect frauds. They have cheated the sharecroppers and the Government with their committees until the Government won't risk them to measure their land. They are going to measure it for you this time, Mr. Moore.

The sharecropper has to go to the county agent to find out about his check. If he doesn't, he knows nothing about it. The landowner has no time to go to the public speakings. He is always hanging around the courthouse trying to get on a jury to sell out for a few dollars. He will go around the sharecroppers on the place just before the election and tell them they have to vote or move. Some of them in places will vote at three or four different places every election. You didn't know how we got our knowledge? We got it in school just like you got yours.

Then some of them hired land, some cheated people out of land and got it in many dishonest ways. Seems like this New Deal has made some of you sore because it has stopped your pensions. They are going to give us fellows who do the work a fair share with the landowners. Wouldn't you say, our wives can't cook anything but meat and gravy. If they had been living with one like you, they would

You sore at the laboring man. You hogs it yourselves. Obion County is my home.

CECIL BAYETT.

Crenshaw, Miss.

All the difference between working on the WPA and a man like you, when he works on the WPA, he gets the money, and when he works for you, you get the money. Now Mr. Moore, because you landowners can't cheat and swindle the Government any longer, don't get



## CALPS 'EM SHIFTLESS

# Another Side To Tenantry

To The Commercial Appeal:

## Mississippians Say Shale Croppers Recognized As Necessary There

To The Commercial Appeal:  
In reply to a letter published

your paper of Sunday, April 1, 1906, written by Jim Moore of Union City, Tenn., I am very much surprised that a paper of your standing would print such unfair

untrue statements as he wrote concerning sharecroppers as ignorant, dishonest and thieving people who make their living by beating down ~~the poor~~  
the landowner for every penny they possibly can.

In this section of Mississippi, the sharecroppers are free to organize as they see fit. It is a necessary part of the community in which they live and they carry their part of every load as honestly and respectfully as they are able. Mr. Moore made remarks that are very contradictory when he says that the sharecroppers are free to organize as they see fit.

stated that sharecroppers have good knowledge of law, in one place and they followed court by saying that there are so ignorant that they cannot understand anything made by Government men concerning tenants' crops. He said that tenants do not hear these speeches to find

how to get their Government money. In a sense this is true, but only to about the same extent that the owners do. They attend the meetings for the same reasons that landowners do, and that is mainly for the purpose of understanding the Government program better and how to make ends meet. They

[illegible]

checks so that the owners can get all of the money and hog a little man out of his. If lots of landlords were to get the tenant checks, they would never be harassed by the tenant. He also stated that as a rule the croppers get much more out of their landlords

back as little as they can get with. In this state you very rarely hear of the tenant beating the owner out of anything. It is generally the opposite if there is any beating done. If there is any trouble it is generally because the landlord

# Came To Aid Of Tenants

## Owners Mad, Says Mississippian

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up until after the cotton was picked, and in 1965 went in to contract to do the cotton and rented a 100-acre plot of Government land to the Government, drew 7000 pounds of the rent, and never filled any of the contract with the Government. The landowners are perfect scoundrels. They have cheated the shareholders and the Government.

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has no time to go to the public speakings. He is always hanging around the courthouse trying to get on a jury to sell out for a few dollars. He will go around the sharecroppers on the place just before the election and tell them they have to vote or move. Some of them in places will vote at three a

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Crenshaw, Miss.

All the difference between working on the WPA and a man like you, when he works on the WPA, he gets the money, and when he works for you, you get the money. Now Mr. Moore, because you land-owners can't cheat and swindle the Government any longer, don't get

known their wives to claim the sharecroppers' chickens, and if you go to trial with one, he can prove what he wants to by his wife. When one does get any money out of you, he could put it in his eye. Now, Mr. Moore, you landowners are through swindling and cheating us sharecroppers and the Gov-



# TENNANT GIVEN Predict Tractor \$2,279 JUDGMENT Will Increase The Farmer Says 20 Per Cent Jobless In Delta

Interest Is Charged

On Crop Loan

The ~~Example~~

JACKSON, Miss., May 30. (AP) — The State Supreme Court today dealt a heavy blow against one landlord-tenant relation said to be common in some sections of the Mississippi delta — charging of excessive interest on rent and crop loans.

A Negro tenant, Less Taylor, was awarded judgment of \$2,279.91 against his white landlord, J. W. Copeland, because the Supreme Court said the landlord had charged 20 per cent interest on a note for rent and supplies for the Negro to make his crop.

This constituted usury, the court said, and entitled the Negro to recover not only the interest but forfeited the landlord's right to the principal.

"According to appellee's own testimony, including his book account," the Supreme Court said, "there is no escape from the conclusion that he charged and collected from appellant more than 20 per cent interest per annum on the furnish account."

"It is argued on behalf of the appellee that he was entitled to collect 8 per cent per annum from the date of the note and deed of trust on all furnish items (supplies for making his crop and food), regardless of when they were advanced and that interest so calculated would not violate the 20 per cent provision of the statute."

"There is no merit in that position. A contract to pay the maximum rate of interest allowed by law, calculated from the date of the contract, where the consideration therefor is to be advanced later during its life, if and when needed, violated our usury statute. Interest begins to run on each advance of the consideration from its date."

The proof showed that the tenant was charged with supplies and executed a note therefor in advance of their receipt. The amount of the note was deducted from receipts of his crop. The Washington County Chancery Court ruled against the Negro but the Supreme Court not only reversed the Delta court but also rendered a judgment here in the tenant's favor.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(CNA) —

The Works Progress Administration predicted this week that more men will be hired from cotton fields by the tractor. Mechanization has made it possible for four men to produce as much as five in 1907, a research project report said.

"In several of the important cotton-growing regions, notably in the Mississippi delta and the Western area, the trend toward mechanization has been greatly accelerated in the past few years," said Assistant WPA Administrator Cornington Gill in submitting the findings to WPA Administrator Hopkins.

"Numerous tenants have been 'tractored off' the land and now find employment on the cotton crop only as hired day laborers and for park operations such as chopping and picking. There is evidence that this shift to tractor power and to larger implements requiring less farm labor a bale will continue."

The research workers found that labor requirements of cotton production declined 16 per cent an acre and 20 per cent a bale from 1907 to 1936.



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6  
Labor Conditions.

Missouri.

SHARECROPPERS IN SCOTT COUNTY

*argued 2-4-38*  
A group of Negro sharecroppers in Scott County has gone to the land-owners and asked for a few simple reasonable things which will enable them to help themselves in times like these. Their request includes "permission to raise enough foodstuffs to carry them over the winter." They want the privilege of having a cow, raising some pigs, and some chickens and a few acres for truck gardening, so they can raise enough fruits and vegetables to do some canning so as not to face starvation in the future, on the small amount allowed them from relief. This we think, is a reasonable request and the landowner who refuses such a request, undoubtedly is in his own light.

Surely the planter knows by this time, if experience is a teacher, that the burden of the sharecropper to the farmer lies in the fact that the tenant does not raise enough of the things to "keep him." Hence, the land-lord must put out the money to provide a meager existence for the tenant and his family, or the citizens of the community must provide the "dole" upon which they must subsist.

At a recent conference, which the writer attended in Washington, D. C., Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace and his assistants, stressed the importance of the farmer or the sharecropper, raising more produce to help themselves. "A more diversified crop" was the slogan of salvation for the tenants of the soil. Certainly the having of a pig, a cow, chickens and garden is the proper thing to do as a relief from the present plight. County agents are encouraged by the Government to help bring about this better condition for the farmers. Extension Agents and those in the Farm Security Division are well working to bring about a change for the better for the farmer.

Negroes in Scott County are hitting along the right lines. The state department and the Government agents are with them in their contention for an opportunity to help themselves.



SHARECROPPER'S VIEWPOINT

To The Commercial Appeal:

This is an answer to Mr. Jim Moore's letter found in Sunday's Commercial Appeal, April 17, 1938, about the sharecropper.

I would just like to remind him that there are some sharecroppers who have an education equivalent to the "landlord." He has education enough to understand the explanations of the county agents and to want what is rightfully his. That is why he takes the "gubmint" pay that is offered to him on the crop control program. Mr. Moore must expect his sharecropper to do the work on his farm while he sits per and the hogs in common news in the shade, and the Government around here, but that doesn't mean to send him the money because the all sharecroppers are like that, the sharecroppers of today are the like that, but I have been a sharecropper of yesterday, but all sharecroppers are not as ignorant as he thinks.

Mr. Moore seems to be broad-minded enough to think every problem has two sides, "his side" and the "wrong side," but the landlord can't get by on the sharecropper's demerits. I am sure that Mr. Moore has as many faults as a sharecropper, or I got that from his letter.

My dad has been a sharecropper for nine years. He was hit by the depression, like many others, but he has never taken any relief jobs, not even one of leaning on a WPA shovel handle. He is not afraid to work. He has lived on the same farm for 20 years. He has never had any fights with the landlord, never "stoled" any hogs from him, not even a chicken, and the landlord gets his share of all the crops planted on his farm. Yes, the landlord is an exception. Pity there are not more like him. He will tell you we have always done our part as sharecroppers.

As for the cooking of the sharecropper's wife, there are some who can cook just as wholesome food as the landlord's wife. They also know what it takes to make a balanced diet, and have heard of such things as vitamins.

So come down and visit this sharecropper, Mr. Moore, and I will give you a plate of ham and eggs, and not "sow belly," a few vegetables, (we can them, too), and a mug of milk to top that off.

A Sharecropper's Daughter,  
(MISS) NOLA BOWEN,  
Morris Chapel, Tenn.

SEES U. S. AT FAULT

Had No Business Aiding Farmers Says One of Them

To The Commercial Appeal:

I feel I must answer Mr. Moore's letter published in a recent Sunday paper about the many sins (?) of sharecroppers. First, I would like to know where Mr. Moore got his ideas concerning sharecroppers.

Surely not so many from one incident. The incident of the sharecropper who sits per and the hogs is common news around here, but that doesn't mean the all sharecroppers are like that, but I have been a sharecropper all my life, lived with them, married one of them, and I have never known any of them to be as pictured in the letter mentioned above. Just heard of the particular incident mentioned above. I don't actually know of it at all.

Of course there wasn't any WPA or relief then when I was a sharecropper. Folks always trying to help the farmers. They were let alone with their farming and ran it to suit themselves and the landlord. They didn't need any help then from the Government. I never knew or heard of any lawsuits between landlord and sharecroppers. I never did think any of the farmers I knew were particularly ignorant.

And the food question: folks love to eat as well one place as another, and generally have the best they can afford anywhere. The sharecroppers' wives usually help in the field as much as possible and therefore they don't have much time to cook. If we didn't have the relief projects started in the first place, maybe the sharecroppers would have stayed selfsupporting like they used to be.

MELVIN S. AMS.  
Union City, Tenn.

Strike Wins Raise For Cotton Pickers

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Oct. 5 (CNA)—The strike of cotton pickers called by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union has resulted in increased wages for approximately 18,000 members, according to H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the sharecroppers' organization. The strike is still in progress.

# Strike Wins Raise For Cotton Pickers

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Oct. 12th—

(CNA)—The strike of cotton pickers called by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union has resulted in increased wages for approximately 18,000 members, according to H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the sharecroppers' organization. The strike is still in progress.

Mitchell listed as important victories the gains won by Negro and white cotton pickers in Oklahoma, Missouri and Mississippi County, Arkansas, where he reported the union's demands were granted during the first three days of the strike. The demands were for a wage of 85 cents and 90 cents per hundred pounds where transportation to and from the fields is free; and \$1.00 or more per hundred pounds where the pickers have to pay transportation.

In southeast Missouri, according to reports, WPA officials refused to accord to demands of the planters that workers be cut off WPA projects in order to pick cotton unless the planters agreed to the wage demands of the union. As a result cotton picking wages jumped to \$1.00 per hundred on a large plantations with small farmers following suit, according to union leaders.

Union officials asserted that in the Eastern Arkansas area, wages were as low as 40 and 50 cents per hundred, with only a few planters paying up to 60 and 85 cents. They pointed out that cotton is selling at about 8 cents per pound, plus the government subsidy which makes it worth over 10 cents per pound.



Agriculture - 1938

Labor Conditions.

Too Tragic For  
Staging ~~Journal and Guide~~most abject misery in this State,  
and at the greatest hazard to their  
lives.

From The Richmond Times-Dispatch

Some authors who write of the plight of the tenant and the share-cropper in the South (as a practical matter there is little difference in their status), are charged with overdrawing the picture. Plays like *Tobacco Road* and books like Margaret Bourke-White's and Ernestine Caldwell's *You Have Seen Their Faces*, are discounted by skeptics.

One of the tragedies of the Christmas season in Virginia was the loss of the lives of nine members of a Negro family, in a fire that destroyed their tenant dwelling on a farm on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, near Bridgetown.

This is the sort of thing that couldn't be staged, and is too gruesome for popular photography. Yet it has happened. According to the story of the fire printed in the *Norfolk Journal and Guide*, a mother and eight children were sleeping on the second floor of a four-room shack when the fire broke out. There were other people sleeping on the first floor who were apparently not members of the same family.

It remains to be exactly determined, therefore, to what extent sheer necessity compelled the overcrowding that resulted in such wholesale destruction of life in this case, and what part was played by the tendency of the tenants to overcrowd beyond the necessities of the situation.

The fact that 10 people were living in a four-room shack that was just so much tinder when fire broke out from a defective flue (the head of the family that was destroyed was away at the time of the fire), seems indisputable. The story of this fire suggests to us that it would be a fine thing if some investigator with the time and ability, would do for some of the Virginia counties crowded with tenants, what Arthur Raper did for Macon and Greene Counties, Georgia, in his *Preface to Peasantry*.

The Federal Government is beginning to do something about the tenant system, and it would be worth something to Virginia to know where tenants live in the